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DOMINICAN PRESIDENT URGES OAS REVITALIZATION

PA120326 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0347 11 Dec 84

[Text] Santo Domingo, 10 Dec (EFE) -- Dominican Republic President Salvador Jorge Blanco has called for effective solutions to the political and economic problems of the Latin American countries through the OAS.

Jorge Blanco expressed his wish during his speech at the inauguration of the inter-American conference to prepare for the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of America's discovery.

OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares, delegates from nations in the continent, ambassadors, and observers from Europe and Africa are attending the meeting that will end next Wednesday.

Jorge Blanco said that the OAS and the inter-American system are going through a crucial period that "leads us to question ourselves and meditate, moved by our desire that these institutions find effective solutions" to the political, social, and economic problems in the region.

Jorge Blanco stressed that the great spirit of solidarity and fraternity that has grown among the Latin American nations since they became independent foments and strengthens inter-American relations.

"There is no doubt that the OAS responds, in essence and structure, to the system of reciprocal guarantees fostered by the liberator Simon Bolivar at the Panama congress held about 180 years ago," he said.

He added that it is a common desire that a revitalized OAS will help in confronting the challenge of the region's realities, and in satisfying urgent requirements in the political, economic, social, and cultural fields.

Jorge Blanco stressed the importance of the activities scheduled by the OAS to commemorate the 500th anniversary of America's discovery.

He added that these activities offer an excellent opportunity "to work together in cooperation plans that will strengthen the existing ties between our countries and the American continent in general, based on the perspectives of a reevaluated past, and on an analysis of our shared identities."

"The inter-American philosophy of cooperation and dialogue between peoples and cultures coincides with the goals of unity and cooperation that are part of the philosophical meaning in the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of America's discovery," Jorge Blanco noted.

In conclusion, the Dominican Republic president asked the delegates at the meeting to formally declare 1992 as the international year of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America.

ALFONSIN, DEPUTIES ON UCR GOVERNMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

PY121758 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 11 Dec 84 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- The first anniversary of the Radical government was marked yesterday by praise for its democratic achievements and criticism of its economic policies while President Raul Alfonsin himself indicated there was still a hard and difficult road ahead for Argentina.

The president, who will address the nation on radio and television next Monday to give an account of his first year in government, spoke briefly to the press on entering Government House, saying existing problems can be solved "with great discipline but without recession."

He said Argentina had gained much international prestige with the return of democracy which would be of great help in the task ahead, noting "we Argentines are more democratic although we still fall short of the mark." Argentine's greater international prestige would contribute to the success of objectives such as Latin American integration, he said.

On the economic prospects for 1985, the president said he believed there would be positive results "but of course we are on the march and we can't think of solving all the problems in one year."

Alfonsin, who will holiday with his family in Chapadmalal tourist center from December 23 to January 2, said democracy restored in Argentina a year ago "was a path we have all undertaken to follow." Democracy was not only the presence of institutions but also the general behaviour stemming from individual activity, the president said.

Intransigent Deputy Miguel Monserrat said the achievements of the Radical government in the field of public freedom, in the enforcement of a state of law, and in the degree of democratic co-existence were positive. But its lack of achievements in the economic field and the failure to purge and remodel the Armed Forces, among others, were negative aspects, Monserrat said.

His Justicialist colleague Adam Pedrini agreed the achievements in the field of individual freedom during the first year of the Radical government were excellent but in the economic field there had been setbacks because the government was unable to manage the heritage left by the military regime.

Both deputies were strongly critical of the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which they claimed would spark recession.

Jujuy Popular Movement Deputy Cristina Guzman said the first year of the Radical government had reaffirmed democracy but warned the country was still going through a transitional period. She maintained Argentina needed an economic programme to show it the way to reactivation.

Christian Democrat Lower House member Augusto Conte said on October 30, 1983, Argentines voted for freedom and peace but they soon became aware of the "quicksand in which the preceding tragic dictatorship left us in all aspects of national life." He said the government did not realize the need of a fighting democracy and was still weak and lacking in courage on four essential issues -- human rights, reorganization of the Armed Forces, socio-economic problems, and the foreign debt. Conte was critical of the Peronist opposition which he said confined itself to criticizing the government but did not make any counterproposals.

BEAGLE TREATY SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS FOR APPROVAL

PY121658 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Dec 84 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- The peace and friendship treaty with Chile will be submitted in Congress today for approval within its special sessions currently under way, Lower House Chairman Juan Carlos Pugliese said yesterday. The government apparently seeks approval of the accord before year end. But Vice President Victor Martinez said earlier this month it was unlikely it could be debated and approved by the two Houses before December 21 when Congress will be recessed until the end of January.

Chilean Ambassador Arturo Fontaine Aldunate said his government would also submit the treaty to the military junta -- Chile's legislative body under the de facto government -- within the next few days. Once the treaty has been approved on both sides of the Andes the two governments will exchange ratification papers which will make the treaty come into effect. Fontaine Aldunate said official joint Argentine and Chilean committees were already working and would continue to work throughout the summer on plans to implement economic and physical integration once the treaty becomes effective.

GRINSPUN ON ECONOMIC ISSUES; DEPARTS FOR EUROPE

PY121430 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2122 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Dec (TELAM) -- Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun reasserted today that on 28 December Argentina and the IMF will sign an agreement through which Argentina will be granted the standby credit that has been requested to cover immediate maturity dates on the foreign debt, but he denied that there will be more salary increases in December. Grinspun made this statement at Ezeiza International Airport before his departure for Europe and the Persian Gulf region where he will meet with representatives from the private banking sector to whom he will explain the present economic situation Argentina is confronting and request their participation in the agreement that was recently achieved with the committee of creditor banks in Argentina.

Grinspun will start his official activities in Zurich where he will meet with representatives from the most important Swiss banks, the International Adjustment Bank, and the Swiss National Bank. He will also hold another meeting to be attended by bankers from Switzerland, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands. From there he will go to Frankfurt, where on Friday he will meet with bank officials from the FRG, Austria, Luxembourg, and the Scandinavian countries. On Monday he is scheduled to be in Paris where he will meet with bankers from France, Belgium, and Spain, and where he will hold separate meetings with authorities from the National Bank of France and French Treasury authorities. Grinspun will also visit Manama, Bahrain, in the Persian Gulf, where he will meet with Arab bank authorities in a meeting that has been organized by the Arab Banking Corporation.

Answering a question, the economy minister noted that his trip is not related to Paris Club activities since we have virtually finished with the technical aspect of the negotiations. But he is scheduled to meet with Paris Club members on 16 December in Paris for the signing of agreements. He added that during this trip "I will meet with representatives from the private banking sector to explain to them the present stage of our negotiations and to request their cooperation in our negotiations with the consortium of private banks which are financing $4.2 billion."

Asked what he would do to overcome the present inflation index and to meet the goals that have been established for next year in this regard, Grinspun noted that by decreasing the levels of prices we are achieving this goal.

Asked whether the General Labor Confederation was making contributions to the labor, management, and government agreement meetings, he said: "Yes. They are bringing their ideas, their demands to the meeting."

Asked whether the salary program for 1985 will be similar to that of 1984, he said that the socioeconomic team is scheduled to hold a meeting today but that since he will be unable to attend "it will start making the pertinent decisions" in this regard upon his return next Thursday.

Asked about contradictory views among politicians and economists regarding his belief that 1985 will be better than this year, Grinspun noted that I did not say that 1985 was going to be better. I said that in 1985 we shall continue with the same growth as in 1984. Answering the same journalist who asked him whether 1985 will not be as tough as 1984, Grinspun said: "It will be more controlled. But we have to avoid squandering, be careful in our spending, establish priorities, and act in compliance with them."

When journalists noted that about 20 days ago American bishops issued a statement in which they said that the terms of the IMF agreements were inhumane, Grinspun said that we have achieved very good terms. Ours is a different situation, because the agreement we achieved with the IMF is an unusual one.

CENTRAL BANK CHIEF COMMENTS ON RENEGOTIATION

PY121720 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Dec 84 p 1

[Excerpts] (NA-DYN) -- Central Bank Chairman Enrique Garcia Vazquez said yesterday the agreement reached with Argentina's creditor banks in the U.S. would mean a saving of 1.5 billion dollars, equivalent to 12 million tons of wheat. Speaking on television, Garcia Vazquez said during 1985 alone the saving would be 300 million dollars while repayment of the refinancing loans would be up to 12 years -- double what had ever been achieved before.

Garcia Vazquez said the renegotiation agreement was one of the biggest ever reached in the world and also one of the most complex. If the constitutional government had tried to reach an agreement shortly after taking office it would never have got one as favourable as the current one, he said. This was so because the military government had defaulted on an agreement with the IMF and therefore the current government's negotiating position was very weak, he added. Also there was not clear diagnosis of the causes of inflation at the time.

Garcia Vazquez said the IMF always applied shock policies to combat inflation but in the case of Argentina agreed to a cutting back of inflation to 300 percent during the 12 months from October 1, 1984, to September 30, 1985. "This implies a systematic but gradual attack on inflation, starting with a 15 to 16-percent rate in the initial months and ending the period with seven to eight percent," he said.

During the first two months of the agreement Argentina had met its targets to the letter in attacking this "scourge, this so perverse dragon of inflation," he added. He said inflation was keeping Argentina in a state of stagnation because resources were channeled to non-productive areas, favouring speculators and burdening producers. The Central Bank chairman predicted inflation would keep falling in the coming months without causing economic recession.

NAVY DECIDES NOT TO ADOPT STANCE IN ASTIZ CASE

PY121650 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 11 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN) A Defence Ministry source last night denied reports the Council of Admirals intended to adopt a firm institutional stance following the arrest by a civilian court of Navy Lieutenant Alfredo Astiz on charges of involvement in the 1977 wounding and disappearance of the Swedish girl Dagmar Hagelin. The sources said the Council held a lengthy meeting throughout the day to consider the case and was in frequent touch by telephone with the Defence Ministry which explained the case was entirely in the hands of Federal Judge Miguel del Castillo.

The Navy believes the 34-year-old lieutenant was faced with a possibility of double jeopardy as he was cleared of the charges in 1980 by a court-martial which ruled he was merely obeying orders when he shot Miss Hagelin, 17, mistaking her for a left-wing subversive, and had her taken to the Navy Mechanics School (ESMA). The Navy clarified yesterday Astiz was actually a lieutenant (teniente de navio) and not a captain (capitan de corbeta) as he has been consistently described during the last few years.

Del Castillo yesterday excused Astiz from appearing in an identification line-up at the request of his lawyers but the Navy officer was recognized from photographs by a witness as the man who shot Miss Hagelin as she was fleeing in the suburb of Moron when she spotted security forces who were trying to capture the witness. Miss Hagelin was on her way to visit the witness, a friend of hers. Two other witnesses who had been detained at the ESMA clandestine detention centre also said they had seen Astiz taking Miss Hagelin to a first aid station at the school to have her head wound attended. The judge said he had excused Astiz from appearing in the line-up because the Navy could not provide three other officers of the same rank and similar appearance to complete the line-up. The presence of the officers was made necessary because Astiz refused to divest himself of his uniform when appearing in court.

The Defence Ministry sources said there was some unrest among the lower ranks of Navy officers because of Astiz' arrest, but Judge Del Castillo said he had held several very cordial talks with Navy Chief-of-Staff Admiral Ramon Aroza.

Astiz also faces charges before the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces for having surrendered the South Georgia Islands without resistance to British forces at the outset of the Malvinas war. When it was announced outside the law courts yesterday that the Navy officer would not be brought for the line-up, one of the onlookers shouted: "Long live Admiral Astiz, the defender of the Malvinas!"

Alfonsin Remarks

PY122316 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2015 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 12 Dec (NA) -- President Raul Alfonsin today promised that "the government will not yield to pressures" in the case of Navy Lieutenant Alfredo Astiz and that "the case will remain in the courts." Meanwhile, Federal Judge Miguel del Castillo has reported that he has received the papers of the Hagelin case handled by the Navy in 1981 in which the lieutenant was acquitted.

Alfonsin made his remarks during a meeting he held this morning with members of the Argentine Permanent Assembly for Human Rights (APDH), who later told journalists about the matters that were discussed.

Judge Del Castillo denied having received from the Navy a request to transfer Astiz to some other place of detention, as had been claimed in certain news media, which means that Astiz will remain at the Buenos Aires Navy Base. The judge also ruled out preventive custody for Astiz for the time being.

In the meantime, several naval commanders who have been staying in Buenos Aires today returned to their units in the interior, which means that the Council of Admirals, which has been making an in-depth evaluation of the Astiz affair for 2 days, will not be able to meet again in the near future.

AIR FORCE OFFICERS' ASSIGNMENTS CHANGED

PY130205 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2046 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Dec (TELAM) -- It was today officially reported that the president of the nation has ordered that the assignments of several high-ranking Air Force officers be changed, on the basis of a proposal submitted by the defense minister and a report submitted by the Chief of the Air Force General Staff.

Through Decree 3846, the president has established that Brigadier Ernesto Horacio Crespo will hold the post of deputy chief of the General Staff. He will thus leave his current post as commander of air operations. The other designations are: Brigadier Roberto Fernando Camblor, commander of air operations; Brigadier Vion Carlos Yocca, commander of training; Brigadier Roberto A. Ventura, commander of air regions; Brigadier Enrique Hugo Ventura, commander of materiel; Brigadier Nelsis N. Rodoni, chief of Area A, Joint Staff Supply Section; Brigadier Ruben Antonio Corradetti, chief of staff of the Logistics Command; Brigadier Carlos Felipe Bloomer Reeve, director of the Military Aviation School.

The decree sets forth that the chief of the Air Force General Staff will decide the date when each officer will leave his current post and assume his new assignment.

RADICAL CONVENTION AMENDS PARTY CHARTER

PY121825 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 11 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- The Radical Party convention early yesterday unanimously passed a reform to its charter by-passing the incompatibility of members simultaneously holding public and party posts but another reform allowing non-party candidates to be included in electoral ballots was only passed after a lengthy and heated debate.

The pre-dawn vote was 166 to 26 in favour of the reform after President Raul Alfonsin turned the tide by telephoning several leaders of factions opposed to the change on the grounds it needed a deeper study before being implemented. The president's intervention convinced the strong Buenos Aires Province delegation which was joined by the similarly strong delegations from the Federal Capital, Cordoba and Mendoza, giving party leaders more than the two-thirds majority required to pass the reform.

The convention was also divided on the issue of the ban on party members simultaneously holding party and public posts, but a compromise was reached by which the ban was suspended until the expiry of the mandates of party leaders currently holding public office.

The convention also unanimously approved a proposal declaring a presidential candidate chosen by the party as the party's natural president.

The possibility of including non-party candidates on the party's electoral ballots was particularly pleasing to the Tucuman Radical Party which has formed an alliance with the Federal Party which has formed an alliance with the Federal Vanguard Party led by former Governor Celestino Gelsi for provincial legislative elections in March.

The five-hour debate was held against a background of insults hurled at each other by opposing factions in the spectators gallery but a relative silence reigned during the voting and the one-hour vote-counting which followed it.

The convention then broke up because of a lack of quorum caused by the lateness of the hour without being able to deal with numerous items on its agenda including a proposal to postpone elections in the Radical Youth due to be held on Saturday.

METALWORKERS UNION ELECTION SAID 'PREARRANGED'

PY121812 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Dec 84 p 11

[Text] (MLL-NA-DYN) -- Lorenzo Miguel was reelected yesterday national secretary-general of the Metalworkers Union (UOM) in what one dissident UOM leader said was a "prearranged" deal between the Justicialist Party vice president and his main UOM rival, Luis Guerrero.

In other election developments, many of the eligible 58,946 bus drivers and subway workers voted in the first day of Transport Workers Union (UTA) polls, while the Pink list of the Textile Workers Association (AOT) requested that the Labour Ministry suspend elections set for today.

After hours of negotiating with Guerrero, who at one point stormed out of UOM headquarters in what appeared to be an irreversible split, Miguel convinced all 279 delegates to back a national UOM executive board which placed his own men in six of the top nine spots. Guerrero was named assistant secretary but had to settle for just one other man on the board. The independent grouping received one seat.

But Guilmes Secretary-General Francisco Gutierrez before the announcement told the HERALD that Miguel and Guerrero had prearranged the leadership accord, which was formally approved by delegates. Gutierrez, a member of the independent bloc, admitted the possibility that Miguel and Guerrero could have decided to unite to weaken the independents, who counted on around 40 delegates.

Villa Constitution Secretary-General Alberto Piccini, also with the independents, told the HERALD that the presence of at least eight independent branches in the UOM was "unprecedented." But both Gutierrez and Piccini said they were willing to negotiate a list with Miguel and Guerrero on the condition that the independents receive at least one post on the executive board. Miguel finally did give the independents the post of press secretary -- filled by Carlos Gdansky, head of La Matanza branch. Negotiations between Miguel and Guerrero were attended as well by Justicialist Party Deputies Diego Ibanez and Ruben Cardozo -- both considered allies of Miguel.

Long-distance bus drivers voted yesterday in UTA polls while other members vote today for a national leadership.

The five lists campaigning are: the Light Blue-and-White which is backed by retiring UTA President Rene Azar and proposes Juan Palacios as new union leader; the Violet, headed by current Secretary-General Miguel Rios; the Blue-and-Yellow, led by the last elected leader of UTA, Alberico Gonzalez; the White, headed by Justicialist Deputy Anibal Flores; and the Green, representing the union's left wing and led by Miguel Benitez.

State Employees' Association Secretary-General Victor de Gennaro announced that public-sector workers will march on the Economy Ministry on December 19 to demand pay hikes.

MOTOR TRANSPORT UNION HEADQUARTERS BOMBED

PY111936 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0022 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Dec (NA) -- A medium-size bomb tonight exploded in the office of the secretary general of the Motor Transport Workers Union (UTA), where internal union elections will be held tomorrow and the day after, as officially ratified by their Electoral Council. Daniel Lucero, president of the supervising committee, this evening officially announced that despite the inconveniences caused by the attack, the elections will be held.

The explosion occurred at 2145 on the fourth floor of the UTA and Subway Workers headquarters, where the offices of the president and secretary general are located. The bomb, which caused damage but no victims, exploded in the secretary general's office, which is subject to restricted access and which is presently being used by Miguel Rios, one of the election candidates. The building, located at 2969 Moreno Street in the Once neighborhood, was nearly emptied while the Federal Police Explosives Brigade inspected it. The case is being handled by the Eighth Police Precinct.

MENDOZA POLICEMEN END BARRACKS OCCUPATION

PY121615 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1241 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Mendoza, 12 Dec (TELAM) -- Shortly after 0130 this morning, Mendoza provincial officers, noncommissioned officers, and agents decided to leave their barracks, which they had been occupying since 4 December. They made this decision in order to allow the provincial government to announce its wage offer.

In the wake of the lifting of the above coercive measure, Mendoza Government Minister Leon Victor Chade today told a local station that the government has not made any specific wage proposal since, as mentioned earlier, the government would not negotiate until the coercive measure is lifted. Chade said: "Now, as promised earlier, we will see the finance minister and will hold talks about wages for this month."

BRIEFS

DEFENSE MINISTRY APPOINTMENTS -- Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (TELAM) -- It was officially reported today that Jose Horacio Jaunarena and Raul Abel Tomas have been appointed secretary of defense and defense production secretary, respectively. Both officials have been Defense Ministry under secretaries until recently, but since the Defense Ministry has been restructured, they were appointed to head these recently created secretaryships. Raul Abel Tomas will be acting program and budget control secretary for the Defense Ministry. In addition, Jorge Gonzalez Lonzieme has been appointed under secretary of defense. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1945 GMT 7 Dec 84 PY]

PLANNING MINISTER HELD HOSTAGE BY WORKERS

PA130217 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0144 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] La Paz, 12 Dec (DPA) -- Bolivian Planning Minister Rene Fernandez, several deputy secretaries, and some journalists were taken hostage this afternoon by workers belonging to the ministry's union, who demand a basic salary of 1.5 million Bolivian pesos ($166 at the official exchange rate).

Minister Fernandez, who was able to talk with DPA by telephone, said that he had been accused of ordering that public employees' pay slips be stopped, but he denied any responsibility for this. In addition, he condemned the agreement signed by the Finance Ministry which increased the public employees' salaries without consulting the economic cabinet.

The minister of planning, visibly angry, told DPA that he will not be held responsible for the agreement, which has already provoked two strikes in the public sector and the taking of hostages in his office. "I am ready to spend the night in my office to prevent any violence," he told DPA.

According to another minister's statements to DPA, the Finance and Labor Ministries, without holding consultations, authorized a minimum salary for the public sector, which is currently one of the highest paid compared to other sectors. The state official, who asked not to be identified, said that this measure will provoke conflicts in other sectors and increase inflation.

The planning minister and the other officials have been unable to leave their offices since 1500 (local time). At 2100 (local time) the employees said they would release two journalists; one of whom works for the Catholic agency FIDES in La Paz.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Gualberto Mercado began negotiating to resolve this serious situation. This is one of the first times a minister and his officials have been taken hostage.

PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN EVALUATE ECONOMIC SITUATION

PY130255 Paris AFP in Spanish 1820 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] La Paz, 12 Dec (AFP) -- Jose Antonio Ursic, acting president of the important Confederation of Private Businessmen of Bolivia (CEPB), asserted here today that the threat of socioeconomic collapse that hangs over Bolivia can destroy us as a nation.

At the end of a national assembly of businessmen from all sectors in the country, Ursic said that the only ones to blame for the chaotic situation are the current government, which is tolerant and complaisant, and the arrogant labor unions, which make demands, impose their will, and give orders because they feel that absolute power is within their grasp.

In August the CEPB broke with the government because the latter decided to make economic decisions without consulting private businessmen. According to Ursic, during its meeting the CEPB made an exhaustive evaluation of the Bolivian economic and financial situation on the basis of official information and the objective development of the productive, commercial, industrial, and foreign trade indexes.

He stated that it is quite natural that as a consequence of the government's erratic policies, the slowdowns, and the (?stoppages) of the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) the fatherland is continuing to sink and weaken. What is inconceivable is the magnitude of the disaster, which surpasses that of countries that have sustained or faced a war and destruction.

Ursic pointed out that the last COB strike, which lasted 19 days, represented a loss of $170 million to the businessmen and of a much larger sum to the entire national economy.

He also stated that the GDP will experience a 14-percent drop in 1984 and that productive capacity will drop to levels that existed 15 years ago which, in turn, will leave 1.6 million people out of work. In addition to all of this there is a soaring inflation rate which this year will amount to 3,500 percent.

Ursic criticized the government for its lack of initiatives to obtain investments and to overcome the unemployment problem and lack of production. He also criticized the government's erratic policy toward the foreign creditors of the Bolivian debt of over $4 billion. Ursic pointed out that the disproportionate increase in the fiscal deficit amounts to 600 million Bolivian pesos and will reach 5.2 billion Bolivian pesos as a consequence of the recent economic measures, which provide for price increases, salary hikes, and greater restrictions on the private sector.

Last April Bolivia refused to pay the amortization and interest rates on its foreign debt for this year for a sum that surpasses $700 million, which meant the loss of its credit rating and caused it to be considered as an insolvent country.

Ursic ended by stating that the 350-percent monetary devaluation represented a loss in the country's capacity that will affect the adequate functioning of the country's economy.

POTOSI MINERS THREATEN PROTEST ACTIONS

PY121145 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Excerpts] In order to fulfill the instructions of the Federation of Mining Cooperatives of Bolivia, the mining cooperatives of Potosi have issued instructions regarding road blockades. Julio Quinonez, secretary of the mining cooperatives of Potosi said:

[Begin recording] We want to explain to the people that the Potosi cooperatives in particular can no longer wait for a solution to their problems. The central government, through a formal commitment from the mining minister and a decree, made us suspend the pressures we have been exerting. Unfortunately the government decree has not been implemented. We feel that the executive committee of the Democratic and Popular Unity is the body that vetoed the implementation of the decree. For this reason and because of the official notification from the mining minister, the mining cooperatives of Potosi at an assembly held this afternoon decided to start actions blocking all the roads to Potosi starting of 0700 local time on 12 December.

If a solution to our problems is not found by this time, the day after tomorrow, 13 December, we will continue with harsher measures by cutting the television broadcasts from the relay station on (Marmisa) Hill where two mining cooperatives are also located. Furthermore, if our demands are not fulfilled the mining cooperative of Uyuni, the Pulacayo cooperative, will also exert pressure by obstructing the railroad tracks in Uyuni, which connect with Argentina and Chile. This is the report we received from those two districts. [end recording]

These were the remarks made by Julio Quinonez, leader of the mining cooperatives of Potosi. At the same time, the Federation of Mining Cooperatives delivered a communique saying that the decree for fixing the exchange rate for the prices of minerals in cooperatives has not been promulgated and that this is the reason why the blockades of roads to the Potosi Department and to Potosi have been ordered starting at 0700 on 12 December.

UDP NAMES PRESIDENTIAL, VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

PY122022 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] Unofficial sources have told Panamericana that the Democratic and Popular Unity [UDP] will participate in the next presidential elections in 1985. Mariano Baptista Gumucio and Federico Alvarez Plata are said to be the UDP presidential and vice presidential candidates, repectively. Baptista Gumucio is the current Bolivian ambassador to the United States, and Alvarez Plata is the current interior, migration, and justice minister in President Siles' Government.

SENATE APPROVES MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS FOR 1985

PY122159 Paris AFP in Spanish 1452 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] La Paz, 12 Dec (AFP) -- Senate sources today reported that municipal elections, the first in more than 30 years, will be held in June 1985, simultaneously with the national elections. The Senate has approved the corresponding legal measures and has established the municipal jurisdiction in the electoral districts [asientos electorales] throughout the country. Senate President Julio Garret Ayllon has reported that in the next few days Congress will debate and approve the organic law of municipalities and the municipal election regulations that have been formulated by the Senate. These resolutions will then be passed on to the executive branch. Mayors and deputy mayors have thus far been directly appointed by the Bolivian Government, without any participation by the people.

LECHIN SAYS ELECTIONS IN 1985 VIOLATE LAW

PY122306 Paris AFP in Spanish 2150 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] La Paz, 12 Dec (AFP) -- Juan Lechin Oquendo, the principal leader of the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB], asserted here today that the Bolivian workers do not agree with the call for general elections on 16 June 1985 because this violates the laws. According to the Constitution, the elections should be carried out in 1986. However, due to the serious political crisis, the executive and legislative branches have decided to move them forward by 1 year. Lechin Oquendo stated that the regime is incapable of governing the country and that, therefore, President Hernan Siles Zuazo should resign and leave his post in favor of Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora, as the Constitution stipulates. The union leader blamed the current ministers for the chaotic economic situation, which is reflected in the lack of price controls and supplies, and stated that this shows irresponsibility and an incapacity to confront the nation's problems. Lechin said that the government does not care about the people's hunger and, therefore, we do not believe in its promises. He added that we had to lift the strike (which paralyzed the country for 19 days) because the workers decided to. Lechin ended by stating that in view of the slanderous campaign launched against him for allegedly having distributed money at the COB Congress and for the continuation of the general strike, he will sue Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena, whom he accused of being responsible for this campaign.

NEVES OUTLINES ECONOMIC PLAN, NAMES STUDY GROUP

PY121400 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Deputy Paulo Maluf's defeat in the Electoral College is increasingly being foreseen even by his most faithful followers. Tancredo Neves, on the other hand, is already being considered as the next president of the Republic.

Reactivation of economic growth and a fight against inflation are the basic priorities of the government program prepared by Tancredo Neves, the Democratic Alliance candidate for president of the Republic. These measures were announced yesterday here in Brasilia.

On installing the economic team in charge of preparing the government plan, Neves set forth the guidelines of his government program:

[Begin recording] The main objective of my government seeks the reactivation of economic growth which will result from the creation of new job opportunities, better pay for the labor force, and a better distribution of the national income. This reactivation process will not be achieved unless the necessary measures are adopted to curb inflation. We will also have to make the necessary financial readjustments in the public sector, and maintain the level of external accounts. The financial sources of the public sector [passage indistinct]. [end recording]

Tancredo Neves also defended an aggressive policy to curb inflation and a realistic negotiation of the foreign debt, while taking into account the basic regulations proposed by the international financial organizations. He said that the economic growth must be based on national savings, but accepting also the participation of foreign capital.

Neves also defends a decisive support to agriculture and the strengthening of the federal government, guaranteeing the political and financial autonomy of the states and of the municipalities.

CALS ON NUCLEAR FUEL, URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANS

PY122359 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 11 Dec 84 p 19

[Text] Sao Paulo -- Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals on 10 December said that Brazil will attain self-sufficiency in nuclear fuel and will be enriching its own uranium in the early 1990's. He added that investments of $850 million will be needed every year to master the fuel cycle technology under the nuclear program within the next 6 years.

Minister Cals pointed out that "nothing remains to be changed in the nuclear program." He explained that the program was already subjected to revision when the government decided that the priority target would no longer be the construction of power plants but the mastering of the fuel cycle. Cals remarked that the only pending change is the transformation of Nuclebras into a company that will be independent of the federal government. This company will sell the services of its subsidiaries to third parties both at home and abroad. Those services may be sold by Nuclep (Nuclebras Heavy Equipment, Inc.), Nuclen (Nuclebras Engineering, Inc.), and Nuclemon (Nuclebras Monazite and Associated Elements, Ltd.), which is in charge of exploiting monazite deposits. According to Cals, this will facilitate the obtainment of the $850 million that the nuclear program will need each year.

On 27 December, Minister Cesar Cals will preside over the start of operations at the Itatiaia mine (which has our country's largest urnanium reserve) in Ceara. The mine will be an important step for the attainment of self-sufficiency in nuclear fuel.

FRENCH HELICOPTERS, SPARE PARTS TO BE PURCHASED

PY130107 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] Rio de Janeiro -- Claiming that it is necessary to balance Brazilian-French trade, the Secretariat of Planning [Seplan] of the presidency has allocated $200 million to buy 20 French-made helicopters for the Navy and the Air Force. In addition to the helicopters, replacement parts manufactures by the French company Aerospatiale will also reportedly be purchased. The decision has elicited negative reactions within the Armed Forces because the Seplan decision has (?upset) the expansion plans of the Brazilian helicopter industry.

BRIEFS

OIL WELL FOUND -- Tests from oil well 11-RJS-305 have yielded 2,800 barrels per day, making it one of the largest oil deposits in the Bacia dos Campos area, Carlos Walter Marinho Campos, prospecting director for the Brazilian Petroleum Corporation [Petrobras], reported yesterday. The well should produce 8,000 barrels daily in the future. Its reserves are estimated at about 200 million barrels. The known reserves of the Bacia dos Campos are 1 billion barrels, compared to the 1.9 billion barrels of reserves in the whole country. [Excerpts] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 30 Nov 84 p 19 PY]

LEPROSY IN AMAZON -- Guelardo Martins Cruzes, president of the Rio Cruz Foundation, has said 200,000 cases of leprosy have been reported in the northern Amazon region in the last few months. He made this announcement during a meeting with health secretaries. [Excerpt] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 10 Dec PY]

PINOCHET MEETS WITH PROGOVERNMENT POLITICIANS

PY130232 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] President Pinochet today held a luncheon with political leaders, all of whom expressed their support for the president's actions to control violence during the course of the meeting. This was reported by Minister Secretary General of Government Francisco Javier Cuadra at the end of the meeting held at La Moneda Palace. Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa also participated along with politicians Pablo Rodriguez, Jaime Tormo, Sergio Fernandez, Jaime Guzman, Mario Arnello, Julio Duran, Juan de Dios Carmona, Luis Valdes, Gustavo Alesandri, Federico Willoughby, William (Talin), and Pedro Ibanez.

Minister Cuadra said that the president held a luncheon with several outstanding politicians and that the current political situation was discussed very frankly. Above all, Cuadra said, they analyzed the political outlook, particularly what the government will do in 1989. Cuadra pointed out that it is very difficult to draw conclusions in meetings of this kind. [recorded passage indistinct]

Asked whether the politicians had made any claims, Cuadra indicated that no claims were made, but rather than various political alternatives were jointly evaluated. [recorded passage indistinct]

Cuadra later said that it is impossible to talk about a political opening when the country is confronting the problem of terrorism, which is very delicate and must be analyzed daily. Minister Cuadra was asked whether this meeting did not contravene the state of siege regulations.

[Begin Cuadra recording] Political activities are not restricted under the state of seige. The dissemination of certain kinds of information has been restricted or suspended, and the advance authorization of the government is required. Therefore, this meeting cannot be considered a contravention because these politicians have a theoretical and practical knowledge of the country's political history and they have frequently played important roles in the influential parties which they represent, or which they represented for until 1973. Hence, this is not a contravention, because one of the president's functions is precisely to learn the people's opinions on the situation the country is confronting. [end recording]

Minister Cuadra added that the [words indistinct] of the stage of siege was indirectly discussed. However, Cuadra pointed out, all the politicians expressed their support of the government for the measures adopted to control violence. [recorded passage indistinct]

In conclusion, the minister secretary general of government indicated the possibility of the president holding further luncheons with other political leaders who support the government and who did not participate in this meeting.

CUADRA SAYS SECURITY MEASURES MAY BE HEIGHTENED

PY120314 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2200 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Report by Jose Francisco Contreras from La Moneda Palace]

[Excerpts] Good afternoon. Minister Secretary General of Government Francisco Javier Cuadra today asserted that according to information available to the government, extremist elements will seek to cause alarm among the population during the latter part of December. Cuadra also called on the people to report suspicious activities that could lead to terrorist actions.

Cuadra made these comments when elaborating on the bombing at the stock exchange building in downtown Santiago at noon today. The minister secretary general of government indicated that according to information available to the government, extremist groups will seek to cause alarm during the second half of December. Here are his remarks.

[Begin recording] According to information available to us, during the latter part of December extremist groups will seek to cause alarm among the population to prove that the security and order measures adopted by the government are insufficient to halt the escalation of terrorist actions. [end recording]

Minister Cuadra indicated that today's attack forms part of the new stage of terrorist activities that were being carried out in the country prior to the enforcement of the state of siege. The minister said, quote, the purpose of this new stage is to cause victims because the recent attacks against stationary vehicles, assaults against police stations, as the one on Thursday, 6 December, and today's bomb attack show that their main target is public gathering places, unquote.

In the wake of this escalation of terrorist actions, Minister Francisco Cuadra called on the people to be continuously alert and to pay attention to any suspicious incidents and actions that could have some relationship with terrorist activities.

The minister secretary general of government maintained that the state of siege has had positive results and that it has decreased terrorist activity. In this regard, he reported that 59 people died and 131 others were injured during terrorist attacks that occurred from 1 August to 5 November. However, he said, from 6 November, when the state of siege was put into force, to 10 December only two people have died, a Navy officer and a Carabinero, and eight others were injured, not including the persons who were injured in today's attack.

In conclusion, the minister secretary general of government reported that top police and security authorities are currently holding a meeting at La Moneda Palace to analyze the country's situation. Cuadra indicated that new security measures could be adopted during this meeting and that some of these measures could be implemented immediately. If such measures are adopted, the government will reportedly announce them to the people in due time.

GOVERNMENT MAY DRAFT NOTE ON TERRORISTS' ENTRY

PY122016 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle has reported that the government will study the possibility of drafting a note that will be submitted to international organizations on the clandestine entry of terrorists into the country. It must be noted that this has been charged by the government secretary general, who said that these terrorists have participated in recent terrorist attacks that have been carried out in the country. He added that these terrorists are trained in Cuba and other communist countries.

EXTRA POLICE, MILITARY ON DUTY FOR PROTEST DAY

PY121807 Paris AFP in Spanish 1726 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] Santiago, 12 Dec (AFP) -- Reliable sources have reported that a false bomb threat was the only incident recorded today in Santiago during the day of protest against the military government and the state of seige organized by the leftist Popular and Democratic Movement [MDP].

Unlike previous demonstrations staged throughout the country, today's protest was limited to Santiago, according to the MDP metropolitan council. The MDP is a coalition made up of the outlawed Communist Party, the clandestine Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR], and a sector of socialism.

An anonymous caller stated that a bomb was placed in a supermarket located in the elegant neighborhood of Apoquindo, east of the city, but it was a false alarm, officials of the supermarket stated. The previous day, 18 persons were wounded when a bomb went off at the stock exchange building during business hours, which was termed by the authorities as another act of the terrorist escalation which prompted the establishment of the state of siege on 6 November 1984.

Despite the censorship imposed on the press, MDP leaders had distributed a communique inviting its followers to participate today in several demonstrations including the erection of barricades in neighborhoods on the outskirts of Santiago. The MDP calls upon the people to carry out any type of action that is within their capabilities in the different zones of the metropolitan region, the communique stated. The communique has not been published by the communications media.

The activities were carried out normally today in this capital but the number of policemen deployed on the streets was much larger, while armed military troops were deployed on the subway stations, one of which was the object of a dynamite attack on 7 December.

SEGUEL REELECTED BY EL TENIENTE UNION

PY122312 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1347 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] Santiago, 12 Dec (EFE) -- Chilean union leader Rodolfo Sequel was today reelected head of his rank and file, called the Caletones Professional Union of the El Teniente mine in Rancagua. In the elections at the Caletones Professional Uinon, Jaime Canales, Rodolfo Seguel, Wenceslao Astete, and Erasmo Yanez were reelected to their posts, but the up-to-now secretary of the El Teniente zone, Eduardo Diaz Solis, lost his post.

His reelection will enable Rodolfo Seguel to continue to hold the presidency of the Confederation of Copper Workers. Seguel also heads the National Workers Command, a multiunion opposition group made up of five large labor organizations.

Briefs

WORLD BANK LOAN -- Santiago, 5 Dec (AFP) -- Economy Minister Modesto Collados has reported that the World Bank will grant a $600-million loan to Chile under a 3-year credit program. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 2235 GMT 5 Dec 84 PY]

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION GROWTH -- The Industrial Promotion Society has reported that Chilean industrial production grew by 10.4 percent during the first 10 months of 1984 in comparison with the same period in 1983. [Summary] [Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 24 Nov 84 p 14 PY]

PUBLIC WORKS UNDER SECRETARY -- Army Colonel Hernan Jorge Abad Cid has been installed as new under secretary of public works. He replaces Colonel Fernando Hormazabal, who will join the Chilean military mission in Washington as assistant attache in January 1985. [Summary] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 5 Dec 84 pC 5 PY]

PERCOVICH DELIVERS STATE OF UNION ADDRESS

PY111525 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Dec 84

[State of the Union address to Congress by Prime Minister Luis Percovich Roca on 10 December in Lima -- live]

[Excerpts] Mr Chairman of the Congress; Messrs Senators; Messrs Deputies. In compliance with the constitutional provisions, I requested in a timely fashion that the national Congress set a date and hour when I could present the report I have prepared in my capacity as chairman of the Council of Ministers. Tonight, I have come to the national Congress with the purpose of submitting to the consideration of the honorable congressmen, and of the citizenry in general, the main guidelines of the policy to be implemented by the Council of Ministers over which I preside.

The general framework under which the government has had to function over the last few years has not been the most adequate, proper, and stimulating. The democratic administration found a truly chaotic economic situation. The various measures implemented by the previous regime severely affected the production sector, generating an inflationary process. I refer to this situation to remind the congressmen that the economic and social crisis that currently prevails was not created by the current regime, but represents the continuity of a negative situation, the effects of which cannot be overcome in a few years.

Unfortunately, it is easier to destroy than to build. In addition to the factor I have already mentioned, we should add two more harmful situations: the naturaldisasters that affected the country last year which we faced with realism and sacrifice, and the world crisis. It is not true that the crisis has eased; we cannot say that the crisis is over just because some countries, especially the United States, now show some signs of growth.

Well-known economists have pointed out that a recovery based on a return to an economic isolation without being accompanied by a worldwide economic revitalization is very fragile. The developing countries, like our country, are the ones that cannot improve and progress. On the contrary, the gap separating us from the industrialized nations is widening.

Our raw materials are subject to unfavorable trade terms, which reduce the value and amount of exports or make them dependent on technological variations. This difficult situation affecting Peruvian exports and the export of other countries located on the same international level has put us in a delicate situation with regard to the problem of the foreign debt.

We should not only look at the size of the debt but also at the burdensome aspect of servicing the debt, in addition to the protectionist and restrictive measures implemented by the industrialized countries. This situation shows a picture in which the tendencies of the international economy become real obstacles, real barriers halting the efforts at revitalizing our economies.

Allow me to offer some figures that give a better idea of the problem. Our hemisphere has proven that it is now transferring 3 percent of its production to the industrialized countries, which has meant a decapitalization of close to $50 billion in the last 5 years. This is certainly a contradiction in view of the fact that commitments were made in the sixties for the industrialized countries to transfer 1 percent of their production to the developing countries. In sum, the real efforts of years of growth have been upset and counteracted, and the political efforts of 25 years have been in vain.

But more must be said. The countries of the American region are experiencing difficulties. After having achieved an average GNP growth rate of 6 percent in the decade from 1960 to 1970, they contracted loans for consumption in the decade from 1970 to 1980, usually from commercial banks with high interest rates. When growth stagnated and then declined in 1981, the situation became difficult in 1982 and turned critical in the following years. No equilibrium has been reached between investment and profits.

Messrs congressmen, according to statistics, among the economically active population in the Latin American and Caribbean countries, there is a total of 110 million underemployed workers. In 1983, 18 OAS member-countries experienced a slowing down in their economic growth rates. Fourteen suffered a reduction of the GNP in absolute terms. In the same period, the per capita GNP was reduced in absolute terms, an unprecedented phenomenon in the region's recent economic history. This occurred with an intensity never before known.

To sum up, in 1973 the global Latin American debt totaled $40 billion. Today, it is almost $400 billion, that is, it has grown tenfold.

Peruvian economic indicators clearly show that Peru is immersed in the situation of economic crisis affecting Latin America and the Caribbean. Therefore, the politically self-serving assertions that try to make this government solely responsible for our difficulties in the economic and financial fields lack any true foundation. We should be very much aware, however, that the efforts that can be made are limited. We should remember constantly that there is a limit to the deterioration of our people's standard of living, that it must have a limit. We cannot permit that the structural adjustment be made at the expense of economic and social costs which ultimately lead to the destruction of the productive apparatus, and which are also reflected in greater starvation, misery, and suffering for our peoples.

The foreign debt problem involves many issues. Suddenly we are confronted with creditors for whom all of our efforts and sacrifices are meaningless. These creditors are attempting to submerge us in a recession that will not only undermine our country at present, but also its future in view of the political and social effects that such a recession entails.

As we shall see further in this speech, the government is dedicated to finding a way to handle the problem in an appropriate and realistic manner. In principle, we need to export more and we need creditor countries to accept our products. But if this is to be the case, then they must lift their protectionist policies that are completely incomprehensible since it is these same creditor countries that through the IMF want us to lift restrictions on imports to the detriment of our country's development.

We must also note two other issues that have had a negative impact on our country over the past 2 years: terrorism and drug trafficking.

The constitutional government has confronted the terrorist scourge since the very first day it assumed power. This scourge, this evil of the 20th century, as it has been called, which emerged in Peru during the seventies, has undermined our country with dynamite attacks; destruction of our resources; and cowardly and cruel assassinations of members of the forces of order, of political and municipal authorities, of humble peasants, of women and children. More words cannot fully condemn such misery, such horror, and such malice. We are deeply hurt that Peruvian youngsters, seduced by an ethereal ideology that strives to destroy those values on which our nation is based, are the ones responsible for these attacks.

Speaking for all of those who shall always value the magnitude of their sacrifice, I hereby salute and express our gratitude to all the victims of barbarism, to all those homes that mourn their dead.

We have struggled against terrorism and we shall continue to do so firmly and within the framework of the laws, upholding human rights. The government has always upheld this policy so as not to lose the moral authority to confront an adversary that hides in the shadows of anon mity. Based on this moral authority, we have relied on the support of the Peruvian public, except for some sectors who have sought political benefits from the drama of Ayacucho by insinuating ill-intentioned arguments about alleged human rights violations. These false and ill-intentioned rumors have also been reported by international organizations and the echo of their hasty and superficial research have become an unjust campaign that undermines the good democratic image that our country has justly earned within the family of nations.

Therefore, we must state that we cannot accept massive criticism or so-called lessons about how to deal with human rights from those who, based on their political convictions, propose or claim to propose systems for our country and our people under which the significance of human rights does not transcend the mere rhetoric of official propaganda. We all want to fully enforce human rights, but we should not deceive ourselves and overlook the fact that the only way human rights will be enforced and applied will be in a democracy and under the rule of law, whose preservation is the priority goal for this government.

The financial difficulties the government is encountering can be clearly seen if we take into consideration that to repay our foreign debt falling due in 1985 alone, we would have to use 90 percent of our treasury revenues. This estimate does not take into account the effects of possible readjustment measures.

This situation necessitates adapting the current economic system to conditions very different from the recent past. An overall solution to the problem in the short term is uthopian and would require implementing measures that would have a very high social cost, which would be unjust in current circumstances.

This forces us to combine the gradual implementation of temporary domestic adjustment measures with the renegotiation of our foreign obligations under terms at least similar to those obtained by other countries on our continent. Through these internal readjustment measures, we will seek to reduce the fiscal imbalance as much as possible and to channel to the private sector the available credits, within the framework of a necessarily austere monetary program giving absolute priority to defending a strategic level of international reserves and of domestic savings. In this way, we intend to maintain a stable economy, so as to achieve an orderly process of transferring power. We also hope that the reduction of this imbalance will allow for economic growth in the medium term. The actions carried out to achieve these objectives have a bearing on different sectors.

Public sector: The reduction to reasonable levels of the deficit must be achieved through absolute austerity in normal spending and investments through increasing revenues at amounts sufficient to meet the unavoidable needs of the treasury, and through a realistic policy in readjusting the prices of goods and services provided by public enterprises. Therefore, the fiscal accounts will be handled under a cash-budget policy; that is, an expenditure will be authorized only when the treasury reserves are at an appropriate level of resources.

The increase in revenues will be achieved by strengthening the collecting power of the treasury through the implementation of measures aimed at utilizing the operating power of the Customs General Office and of taxes.

Moreover, we also admit that the treasury must be strengthened, and we intend to do so through gradual readjustments in taxes imposed on the consumption of petroleum by-products until their prices return to normal levels.

Foreign debt: The objective in this field is to make an orderly deal with the primary international creditors, seeking to adjust the servicing of the foreign debt to the available resources and to include more creditors in the system of payment in kind, especially in nontraditional export products, while taking every diplomatic step necessary to secure support for our position.

Production: Significant efforts will be made to stimulate productive activities by taking actions designed to expand both domestic and foreign markets and by establishing mechanisms to bring unfair competition under control and to provide temporary protection to faltering industries. To this end, we intend to suspend the importation of certain items in order to give special support to certain sectors.

An effective system will also be designed to have complaints filed about the introduction into the country of foreign items which, because of being subsidized by their respective government, of their price, or of their lower quality, might represent unfair competition for similar domestic products.

We will also avail ourselves of safeguard clauses so we will be able to respond to restrictive measures that might be imposed on us by those countries with which we have signed trade agreements. These clauses will basically require that the principle of reciprocity be broadly applied.

We will also intensify counterbalance trade [comercio compensado] practices through laws establishing the criteria under which these transactions should be conducted. This type of trade must be used as a means to expand our export markets, especially in non-traditional items.

We will guarantee an adequate credit flow to the private sector, especially to those priority sectors seeking to export, although this will be done within the limitations imposed by an austere monetary program.

We will seek to guarantee that resources in foreign currency are available to import the inputs needed by Peruvian industry.

Prices: Since it is necessary to minimize the increase in the general price index, in addition to controlling monetary expansion, actions must be taken to restrict hoarding and speculation in basic products.

To achieve this goal, actions will be taken to improve and to standardize the price regulation system and the list of regulated prices will be expanded to include those whose imports have been suspended and those that are being subjected to oligopolistic practices. A multisectorial committee must also be created to oversee regulated prices.

Despite the serious economic situation affecting the energy and mining sector, especially the prices of minerals that in some cases are at their lowest point in the last 100 years. Mining is one of the country's most dynamic activities. Mining production represented approximately 10 percent of the gross domestic product in 1983, generating 52 percent of the foreign currency that entered the country as payment for exports. In 1984 mining, mining will contribute 46 percent of the foreign currency.

In the last few months, mining activities have been stimulated by the measures included in the law to promote small mines and the regulations in Articles 133, 155, and 157 to 161 of the General Mining Law. These encourage new investments and the creation of special enterprises.

It is also necessary to strengthen the Mining Compensation Fund, Focomi. To do this, measures have been taken to implement programs to consolidate and refinance short-term obligations in support of small mines and the producers of copper and tungsten. With this purpose in mind, an agreement has been signed among the Peruvian State Mineral Marketing Company, the Mining Bank, and the Central Reserve Bank aimed at obtaining $30 million to consolidate and refinance debtors. Measures have also been taken to implement Focomi's program no 3 which will begin to distribute funds this week.

The government has also begun to implement a policy to defend the prices of minerals. This year, the CIPEC [Intergovernmental Council of Copper Exporting Countries] obtained the U.S. Government's agreement not to adopt protectionist measures that could hurt our country. Actions are being coordinated in other international organizations to defend our primary mining export products, such as steel, lead, zinc, and silver.

Regarding hydrocarbons, after a reduction in production to 160,000 barrels per day last year because of weather conditions, production has increased to 183,000 barrels daily this year. Exploration and exploitation work is currently being carried out both in the jungle area and on the continental shelf. Petroperu [State Petroleum Agency] is working very hard on the Laguna Zapotal project in the northern area, and new exploration contracts have recently been signed with the (Union Sexta) enterprise in lot 6 in the northern jungle and with Shell in lots 49 and 51 in the southern jungle.

The investments for exploration and development that during the 1981-82 period showed an average level of $515 million have decreased annually over the last 2 years. These investments for the 1983-84 reached an average of $400 million annually. Petroperu does not have the required financial capacity to invest approximately $1 billion a year to prevent the importation of oil in the future. This fact, in addition to the high risk of oil activities, creates the need to stimulate private investment by offering contract conditions competitive with contracts offered by other countries.

Regarding fuels, we believe that it is necessary to formulate a system of prices to ensure the necessary flexibility in its relation to inflation and with the needs of the resources of the central government without affecting the self-financing capacity of Petroperu.

In this country, with its rugged terrain, it is necessary to complement the road system by developing communications. It is obvious that the nation is integrated through communications which also contribute to normal economic activity and, fundamentally, support internal security. Important progress has been made to this end. In 1984, 32,382 new telephone lines were installed throughout the country, thus doubling the installed capacity that existed when this government assumed power. The rural communications plan is also being executed. In its first stage, this plan set up communications with 289 new rural towns. The telecommunications infrastructure has been expanded by means of six domestic stations for communications with satellites, and recently the second ground station for international communications was put into service in Huancayo. Thus, the capacity for international communications has been doubled.

Armed Forces: Before referring specifically to the role played by each branch of the Armed Forces during the past few months, I want to mention the important work carried out by the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force in fighting terrorism in different zones of the country. As you may remember, the Armed Forces have been carrying out missions against terrorism in the central region of the country since 1983, supporting the police forces.

In July 1984, they were entrusted with the mission of planning, controlling, and implementing the actions against terrorism at the national level with the support of the police. The Army has the constitutional mission of defending the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the fatherland.

In the field of social communications, the government plans to carry out the following actions: In accordance with the mandates of Articles 70 and 71 of the Constitution, the social communications media owned by the government are at the disposal of the registered political parties, free of charge, during the electoral process.

General elections have been called for 14 April 1985, and therefore all the necessary measures have been taken so that the political parties have the best facilities to disseminate their platforms to the people through the state-owned print, voice, and audiovisual communications media.

Congressmen, the government that is going to conclude its constitutional mandate in a few months will continue to work for the benefit of the high and unalterable interests of the nation. We cannot deny that this task has been hard, full of difficulties during a time that economic circumstances have made one of the most, if not the most, difficult periods of our history in this century.

This administration will be judged by present and future generations not only for the necessary and unpostponable public works carried out in all sectors but basically for our efforts to install a deep-rooted, real, and lasting democracy.

At this time when there are burdens but still hope, Peru urgently needs the work and efforts of all of her children. Congressmen, this is a task in which everyone must participate. Every individual, disregarding his ideological and political positions, should put away his slogans with the firm conviction that, beyond party or personal interests no matter how legitimate, working for our common heritage, for our fatherland, and for our children must prevail.

We are already experiencing a democratic electoral campaign. At this time of special significance, the government would like to quote the words of one of our most illustrious leaders: Let us struggle together to continue populating desert areas, to conquer centuries' old jungles, to continue building more roads and more houses. Let us join efforts to continue linking cities so that our civic spirit and democratic maturity will make the rupture of the constitutional order impossible, so that love for law and work will become rooted among our people, so that we find lasting order and freedom, so that together we can improve the social and economic conditions of the poorest sectors. Let us together offer moral principles to our children. Let us expand education and culture. Let us make public virtues a common objective, especially under the current circumstances when the values sustaining our nationality are being attacked. Let us eradicate violence for ever so that we can make a great and respected Peru. [applause]

Congressmen, let me express my profound identification with the president and my admiration for his permanent teaching of civic principles because I have learned from him that spiritual coherence and satisfaction over a fulfilled mission have a lasting value in politics especially when a position is held in times as difficult as we are now experiencing. This is why I feel honored to be president of the Council of Ministers, which is seeking to fulfill the historic destiny of guaranteeing the Peruvian people an election worthy of the democracy that was reestablished in 1980 and to give special impetus to the task of revitalizing the economy of our country. Thank you very much. [applause]

Deputies Criticize Speech

PY121413 Lima Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Deputies Luis Alva Castro, of the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance, Celso Sotomarino, of the Popular Christian Party, and Javier Diez Canseco, of the United Left, have made the following comments on the speech delivered to Congress by Prime Minister Luis Percovich.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified speaker] Well, to comply with the Constitution, Mr Percovich delivered a long message to Congress which, in my opinion, was tedious. He failed to admit the many failures and errors committed by the government, and instead displayed arrogance.

[Second unidentified speaker] I found it rather strange that Percovich referred to long-term projections, 5 years from now and so forth, which are things that should not concern the current government.

Those who heard Percovich may have thought that he was talking about another country because, going by his speech, things seemed to be going so well. In fact, the people do not share this opinion because the country is now experiencing so many serious problems in the financial, economic, labor, budget, deficit, and other sectors. Thus if one hears someone saying that the government will bequeath a country where there has been a recovery or one that is in the process of recovery to its successor, well it simply looks like that person does not know what he is talking about.

[Third unidentified speaker] I believe that the message basically described projects and alleged achievements but failed to include any self-criticism. [end recording]

SANGUINETTI SEEKS 'MINIMUM OF SOCIAL PEACE'

PY121625 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2120 GMT 11 Dec 84

[By Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Text] Montevideo, 11 Dec (EFE) -- President-elect Julio Maria Sanguinetti is intensifying contacts aimed at reaching a minimum of social peace in Uruguay, while the workers' demands are increasing with stoppage and strikes.

Sanguinetti held a meeting today with Rodney Arismendi, top leader of the Communist Party and a former congressman who recently returned from his exile to Moscow.

The recently organized unions, which are mostly controlled by the left and activists of the Communist Party, are taking advantage of the remaining period of the dictatorship to recover part of the 200 percent of the purchasing power of the salaries, lost in less than a decade.

Moreover, the union leaders have agreed to initiate talks with the elected authorities who are trying to make up a government of national unity through a programmatic agreement between political parties and social forces.

Arismendi's influence on sectors that control the most important unions and the main workers' federation, the Workers Interunion Plenum, is considered essential to negotiate a possible social pact.

In remarks to the press, the president-elect admitted that the two sectors that have been most seriously affected by the economic crisis are the workers and the retired sector.

During the electoral campaign I did not make false promises, and I am not going to make them now. I have said before and I have to repeat now that if things were so easy, that if only by granting salary increases the people's situation would improve, then the economic life of the people would be very simple, Sanguinetti stated. But we must avoid hyper-inflation, because the granting of salary and pension increases beyond the real possibility for the country's economic reactivation will become mere increases which in the beginning will seem to benefit the real salary but which will then provoke their downfall, he warned.

Sanguinetti's task now is to make the unions and workers understand the economic crisis affecting the country which he will inherit on assuming the government on 1 March, to prevent the increase of conflicts caused by low salaries, inflation, and especially by unemployment.

Meanwhile, Uruguay is now going through a tremendous wave of stoppages and strikes. Bank and judicial employees, railroad workers, bus company employees, metalworkers, and workers in the leather industry and other sectors are suspending their activities almost on a daily basis.

The people are unaccustomed to this type of demand after a decade of silence and repressions.

ISRAEL'S SHAMIR CONCLUDES VISIT, SUPPORTS CONTADORA

TA130822 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0740 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Winding up his talks in Panama, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir last night stated that Israel is not selling weapons to Central American countries involved in belligerent activities. Nevertheless, Shamir noted that Israel is willing to negotiate a reduction in the sale of Israeli weapons to other countries in Central America. He added that Israel supports the Contadora Group, which is formed by Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia, regarding a peace initiative in the region. Yitzhaq Shamir completed his visit to Panama and has now departed for Venezuela.

JOINT MANEUVERS WITH U.S. SET FOR JANUARY

PA121913 Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 11 Dec 84 p 1

[From the "Local Highlights" column]

[Text] More than 10,000 U.S. troops will conduct military maneuvers with Panamanian National Defense Force units in January. Called "Minuteman II," the exercises form part of a U.S.-Panamanian accord to train the Panamanian Armed Forces for a takeover of security chores at the Panama Canal, when the interoceanic waterway reverts to this country in the year 2,000. Puerto Rico's National Guard will also participate in the maneuvers, to include the construction of a highway in the southern Peninsula of Azuero. U.S. participation in military exercises here and in other areas of Central America are causing concern in Nicaragua. Officials of the Marxist "Sandinist" Government are charging that the exercises are part of a Nicaragua invasion plan. The charge has been repeatedly described as "unfounded" by U.S. authorities.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY APPROVES ANNULMENT OF LAW 46

PA122156 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2143 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] The annulment of Law 46 has been approved unanimously, after it was requested on Sunday by President Nicolas Ardito Barletta, for the sake of national conciliation and unity. The announcement of the annulment of Law 46 was announced by Legislative Assembly President Jerry Wilson Navarro himself, after the plenum approved it in a third debate.

MINISTER ESPINO DISCUSSES COCINA'S DEMANDS

PA122143 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] Presidency Minister Jose Agustin Espino today asserted that the government has replied to the three other demands presented by Cocina [Coordinating Board for National Civilianization]. Espino said:

[Begin recording] The replies to the three demands are there. First of all, there is a willingness to discuss the national budget at large in the appropriate national organization, the Legislative Assembly. In addition, the executive branch has reiterated to the appropriate juridical organizations its interest and intention in making justice prevail in all of the cases of embezzlement of public funds. Once the appropriate verdict is handed down, in the state organizations, the comptroller's office and the directorate of state patrimony, will proceed to recover the properties stolen by the culprits.

Regarding the demand to disclose the budget of the Defense Forces of Panama, its commander in chief and general staff have said that they are willing to discuss the topic within the appropriate constitutional organization, the Legislative Assembly. That is where the topic will be discussed. [end recording]

GENERAL NORIEGA INTERVIEWED ON DEMOCRACY, CANAL

PA120356 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 11 Dec 84 pp 26, 27

[Report on an interview with General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Defense Forces, by Max Lesnik in Panama City on 12 October; originally published in REPLICA magazine]

[Text] His closest men call him "man" when referring to him. In English, this means he is "a man," but in Panama this represents the initials of Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces, the man who -- from the most influential position in the nation and due to all kinds of pressure -- decided to give in to democracy and facilitate general elections. The new constitutional president of the country, Nicolas Ardito Barletta, emerged victorious from these elections.

Although he is a professional military officer, Gen Noriega is not a typical "garrison soldier" in the Latin American style. He is a cultured man, an amateur painter, an avid reader, with refined manners when dressed in civilian clothing. Leaving his uniform and boots in the garrison, he could very well be mistaken for a university professor or a computer technician. Such is the calm nature of his personality, which has nothing in common with the volatile and explosive character of men who are accustomed to issuing orders and commands.

The interview with General Manuel Antonio Noriega is being held in his private residence on the night after President Nicolas Ardito Barletta's inauguration. Noriega welcomes us without fanfare or military protocol. There is no waiting in any antechamber. Nor are we surrounded by officers or adjutants. Major Edgardo Lopez is the only one accompanying us. He is one of Noriega's closest aides and he withdrew discreetly from the scene, so that the meeting between "his general" and the journalist became a really exclusive interview. Our only witness is the moon, which illuminates the house's large backyard, and the recorder which took down the words of the man who wants to be remembered as the military officer who fulfilled the dream of General Omar Torrijos.

Our first question has nothing to do with politics or garrisons. It is mostly personal curiosity about a man who has an internal world that is quite different from what you expect in a military officer. Can you, as a man in uniform, explain your interest in art and literature?

Noriega smiles and tells us: "I have been interested in literature, painting, humanism and art since I was a small boy. I inherited this from my grandfather, who was a Panamanian soldier in the so-called "1,000 day war" and who loved literature and history. He wrote his memoirs. This was highly significant for me and greatly influenced my intellectual formation. For me, matters of the spirit are as important as those of the everyday life which I am compelled to carry out because of my position. I might say that I see no reason why the fact that I am a military officer must clash with my inclination for intellectual things. I believe that the most intelligent soldier is the best soldier, particularly in our current world, where all the wars being waged are technological wars, where electronic brains are increasingly prevailing over brute force."

[Lesnik] Noriega has been reported to be intelligent, cold, and calculating. He has been considered to be the "negotiator" par excellence. Even his most bitter enemies acknowledge his exceptional ability to resolve crises without having to resort to extreme violence. Are you perhaps a politician who just happens to be a man in uniform?

[Noriega] "Not a politician in the traditional or local sense. Nevertheless, I don't object to being described as a politician-soldier. From Gen Torrijos, I learned to use power. I have been studying political science. We can safely say that Panama is a country that allows us to see things differently due to its geographical position and the many races that have come here. Since we are aware that Panama is a small country through which many pass, we try to be friendly to all our neighbor countries. We try to have more friends and fewer enemies." "For this reason, we Panamanians converse with people and governments, whether they are from the left or the right. We have carried out humanitarian tasks during which we have saved many lives, regardless of the ideologies of those whose lives have been endangered. We have also mediated in matters vital to other peoples. This has given us a flexibility that has helped us much in our perception of balance. Hence, we have met leaders of various countries, both in power and in exile. This has given us vast experience. Naturally, we have applied this experience to serving our nation. Regarding your question, I would not say I am a politician, but rather a military man who understands politics."

[Lesnik] Gen Noriega, as far as we have seen, Panamanians are a happy, cordial people who enjoy life. They are very similar to other Caribbean peoples and very much like them ethnically. What do you consider to be the Panamanians' most cherished hope?

[Noriega] "Panamanians are basically a peaceful people much like the nearby sea. They are a people who like peace. Precisely because this people likes to be happy and we are half 'Caribbean,' we view work differently. I know that to say this is not being 'political,' but I would say the climate and the environment make us little lazy. We become romantic near the sea."

"Panamanians want to live in peace and work to live decently. After they pay their expenses, they like to spend the rest of their money as they please. I would say we Panamanians want to be happy. That is why we are so concerned about peace."

[Lesnik] But the peace of the Panamanians does not extend much beyond Panama's borders. There is war in Central America, internal strife that might lead to larger confrontations which would turn the region into an erupting volcano. Gen Noriega, what do you think must be done to achieve peace in Central America like that which the Panamanians enjoy?

[Noriega] "The Central American conflict affects us all. We believe it is necessary to exhaust every means for peaceful and diplomatic negotiations. The channels of communications between the sides involved in the conflict should be kept open. Dialogue between the sides should be promoted, because if intransigence prevails at the negotiating table, we would be lost. Not only will those involved in the confrontation lose, but so will all of us who live in the same region. This is why we Panamanians firmly support dialogue, negotiations, and peace. We have hope for the 'Contadora' efforts. However, the success of the group's efforts depends on the support it receives, particularly from the countries involved in the crisis. If they do not want peace, those of us who are not involved cannot impose it on them."

[Lesnik] We already have his profile. Now we will try to define his personality indirectly, which in most cases has good results. Gen Noriega, who is the man you admire most?

[Noriega] "The person living I most admire is Pope John Paul II, because he is a man of exceptional characteristics that can be analyzed from various angles. We can see him as a mystical person from the mystical point of view. If we look at him as a man, we see that he is courageous, bold, and free of hypocrisy. He is a man who dances and sings.

"If we focus on his intellectual side, we see him as a writer and poet. He is a rebel and a democrat. There is nothing extraordinary in my admiration for the pope, as his admirers can be counted in the millions."

[Lesnik] Are you a religious man?

[Noriega] "Yes, but I am not a fanatic. I believe there is a superior being who created this earthly experiment. Some call him God, others Jehovah, others Allah. But in the long run, there is a cosmic being who balances the world in which we live."

[Lesnik] When we asked you whom you most admired, you replied that the pope is your favorite among living persons. Who do you most admire among those personalities no longer with us?

[Noriega] "I would have to classify them in various fields. As a military man, I would say General Edwin Rommel, who was called "the desert fox" because of his cleverness and effective strategy. Rommel, besides being a military man, was an extraordinary man, which is reflected in the letters he wrote to his family from the battlefront. An interesting aspect of Rommel's personality was his spirit of sacrifice. He was indeed a great soldier and a great patriot. He died on Hitler's orders, which redeems him before history and his people."

[Lesnik] Let's get back to Panama. Now that the country has a new government and that the experiment of the new democracy has been implemented, could you tell me when was it that, as head of the Defense Forces, you realized that the country was ready for a change?

[Noriega] "In order to answer your question, we must go back in history. When the Torrijos-Carter treaties were signed, Torrijos himself enthusiastically promised President Carter that he would initiate a democratic opening in Panama. He discussed this matter with his staff, of which I was part, as chief of the G-2 or intelligence branch. He told us that as of that moment, within 6 years, that is in 1984, we could lead the country toward full democracy, after preparing the people. That was Gen Torrijos' plan. However, Torrijos left the scene and unforeseeable situations arose. There were several changes in the government, as well as two changes in Defense Forces commanders during this period. When I assumed command of the Defense Forces, I considered it necessary for the military institution to resume its original mission and that the degree of civilian participation should come through a government elected by the people."

"What really happened was that we had restored many democratic rights. We had a government with a civilian president, we had freedom of the press and political freedom, but we did not have elections. So, exercising their right, the people demanded the final step in the democratization process. We had no political prisoners or exiles. However, we also had no elections and the people wanted to vote. It was then that we decided to complete the democratization process."

[Lesnik] Gen Noriega, were there any sectors that opposed your plans for complete democratization?

[Noriega] "Of course there were. Many did not believe that a democratic change was possible. Therefore, I approached the international arena. I spoke with great democratic figures, such as Colombian President Belisario Betancur, who gave me good advice for carrying out my strategy. I also talked with Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge, who also contributed significantly. I also discussed the situation in my country with former Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins. We sent Panamanian officials to Venezuela to observe how democracy worked in that brother country and the army's role in a democratic nation. With these inputs, we decided to fulfill Gen Torrijos' promise to the Panamanian people. And we did fulfill it."

[Lesnik] Speaking of Torrijos, you were quite close to him. How did he evolve from a military officer in a garrison into the people's revolutionary leader?

[Noriega] "It was almost like magic. Before 1968, the people in our country were desperate because of the failure of traditional civilian governments. The civilian hierarchy in command had deteriorated. Therefore the Torrijos-led military corps, which advocated development, started to carry out an overall civic action strategy that was nothing more than putting the Armed Forces to work to fulfill the people's needs. Thus, Torrijos became aware of the country's needs and put the Armed Forces to work as demanded by our national situation.

"Gen Omar Torrijos reached deep into the Panamanian people's souls, and he has become a national hero. He was a revolutionary, but a peaceful revolutionary, because this is the nature of the Panamanian people."

[Lesnik] The change of command from the Armed Forces to a civilian government elected by the people is not easy to carry out or to consolidate. At least, this has been the case in many Latin American countries where soldiers have come out of the garrison to oust the government elected by the people. Is there any opposition in the Panamanian military sector toward the democratization experiment?

[Noriega] "Well, I will be honest. I do believe that there are many doubtful members, especially in the middle levels, who mistrust democracy as it is understood by Panamanians because it might degenerate. In other words, the freedoms would be not used for the better, but for the worse. The Armed Forces have already made their contribution toward the achievement of democracy. It is here. Now the civilians must make good use of it so that it does not degenerate into disorder and chaos."

[Lesnik] General Noriega, do you believe that the Panamanian people will be able to hold on to the system of freedoms that has just been established with President Ardito Barletta's government?

[Noriega] "Look, do not take this as a chauvinistic reply, but nations are like women; they are unpredictable. However, nations, like women, have intuition. And the Panamanian nation has the intuition that it needs tranquillity. Nevertheless, even if this were not the case, we would muster all the necessary patience so that the military forces do not meddle again in our national life as a frontline force."

[Lesnik] Well, General, you have already told us that you are not a politician and that you have no political ambitions. However, you are a young man, barely 44 years old, and according to law you must retire within the next 5 years, when you will only be 50. Will Gen Noriega then decide to change his military uniform for a Panamanian guayabera and seek the presidency?

[Noriega] "No, no, and no again. I tell you no and no again.

[Lesnik] Gen Noriega answers no, no, no a number of times and laughs, as if he is thinking that the journalist does not believe him. He seems to think that, even as he says no many times, his questioner is bound to think there is a hidden yes. Noriega's smile, however, looks sincere, broad, and frank. Unless he is a great actor, we decide to take his no for an answer. He later explains to us:

[Noriega] "I tell you no because when one learns the intricacies of politics and its intrigue and unpleasant side, one can become tired of it.

I share the fate of cooks, who never sit down to enjoy what they have prepared because they have spent so much time preparing exquisite dishes. I want to write my memoirs when my mandate ends. It will be an exquisite dish. I will recount all that I have seen and all that I have done. I think my memoirs will be very much sought after, not only in Panama but in other places as well. I am as sure of that as I am that I do not want to participate in politics."

[Lesnik] Let's see, Gen Noriega. What do your best friends think about you?

[Noriega] "I think I am the best in their opinion. No, I am joking. (He laughs.) My best friends are very fond of me. Since I treat them well and do not pull rank on them, they look at me differently. We never meet to discuss politics or controversial topics. We meet to enjoy our friendship with relaxing conversation."

[Lesnik] What do your enemies think of you, General? He again laughs and answers:

[Noriega] "My enemies? Well, I would rather say my opponents. I don't think I have enemies, because I have never hurt anyone. I have firmly maintained my positions, especially when I was security chief, because I believe a country has to be strong and a weak security system jeopardizes the entire society.

"I have to say that we deal with many people during the course of our work, but I also must say that we never humiliate anyone. Those who criticize me do so because of what I do and my participation in a military government. For that matter -- I repeat -- I don't have enemies, and I am not unfriendly to anyone either."

[Lesnick] Gen Noriega has fully revealed himself to us, both in his nature and personality, as an intellectual person in uniform. Now we want him to express his ideology. What is Gen Noriega's ideology? Does he have any? Is his ideology of the center, the right, or the left?

[Noriega] "I once read, and I am convinced it is true that the person who expresses his ideology limits himself, because he becomes dogmatic. That is where mistakes are made. Philosophically speaking, this changing world requires people to be able to see the good in every ideology. If we could only take the good in each of them, we could have an ideal world. Unfortunately, that cannot be. I don't want to be tied down by any dogma. That is a serious problem of the leftists and their fundamental error. They are unable to follow any road not clearly marked in books, manifestos, or ideological pamphlets. My open mind cannot accept this at all. We Panamanians prefer the middle road between the two ideological poles that dominate the world. That is how Torrijos thought and that is how I think."

[Lesnik] Do you believe that the Carter-Torrijos commitment to turn the canal over to Panama in 1999 will be fulfilled in its entirety?

[Noriega] "I think so. I am sure that the last U.S. troops in Panama will leave my country at that time, in a friendly manner. However, Panamanian authorities must adequately follow up on the treaty to see that the United States complies with its provisions. We must be on guard and vigilant to prevent violations. Therefore, success will depend on the care and vigilance we Panamanians devote to the fulfillment of the treaty, which will culminate in the complete turnover of the canal to our sovereignty."

[Lesnik] Time has run out. Gen Noriega has to leave. He is going to take a helicopter in the evening to go rest over the weekend at a beach called El Farallon, a beautiful place on the coast that Gen Torrijos also used as a retreat. Both of us are already standing when I ask him a last question. What do you aspire to, Gen Noriega? Tell me in a nutshell: How do you expect to be judged in your country's history?

[Noriega] "Panama has a duly elected civilian government that has been generally recognized by all nations. The Defense Forces have withdrawn to their garrisons and are prepared to go into the field on social assistance missions. I think that I have thoroughly fulfilled Omar Torrijos' pledge to achieve democratization.

"My aspiration is that Panama's Defense Forces, the men in uniform, will enhance their professionalism in order to be fully prepared to guarantee the security of the Panama Canal by the year 2000. I hope that when the time comes for the Panamanian forces to take over the canal security positions in the year 2000 someone will say, even if it is in a hushed tone: This dream of Gen Omar Torrijos had a moving force that led it to success. This is also the work of Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega. This is not asking for too much, is it?"

[Lesnik] It is not often that a man who is used to command will give up the limelight in America or anywhere else. However, General Noriega has already taken this step, which, he said, involves no stepping back. However, he will continue to be talked about. And when he is not talked about anymore, there will be his memoirs. Then he will say many things he would rather not discuss now. General Noriega is an intelligent man who cultivates "intelligence." He knows that "information means power" and that what is said in politics is important but that what is not said is even more important. We say good-bye to the man, the man from Panama.

GUATEMALA

GUERRILLA GROUP DENOUNCES BOMBING OF CIVILIANS

PA122252 Paris AFP in Spanish 2331 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] San Jose, 11 Dec (AFP) -- The Poor People's Guerrilla Army (EGP) of Guatemala charged here that the Government forces "bomb" towns in the Departments of Quiche and Chimaltenango, where they have been engaged in a counterinsurgency offensive since 20 October.

According to the rebel report released in this capital, "the air force bombings are followed by the capture of civilians." The EGP also claimed that during the offensive, its guerrilla units inflicted "heavy blows" on the Army, including 19 casualties between 14 and 19 November.

According to the rebel report, the Guatemalan Government "blames the revolutionary movement for the murders and massacres committed by the counterinsurgency troops against the civilian population." Lastly, the EGP says that "while the bombings against the civilians are intensified, there has been increased violence reported in the urban areas, particularly in the Guatemalan capital."

HONDURAS

COMMENTARY ON CHANGE IN ARMED FORCES' CONDUCT

PA121332 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Station commentary: "Armed Forces Make Changes"]

[Text] On another anniversary, the Armed Forces can take pride in having decided to make changes and prove to the Honduran people that the military chiefs are willing to make changes in their leadership. On this Armed Forces Day, we want to note the Armed Forces' behavior under the new military chiefs. We could not remain indifferent to the corrective measures implemented by the new military high command. When we refer to the Armed Forces we are referring to its chiefs, because eventually they are the ones to set forth the Armed Forces' guidelines.

We often hear people complaining about military chiefs with unrestrained ambitions and extremely selfish motives doing great harm to the institution they represent. This has been the case in the Honduran Army. Former military chiefs pursuing evil interests allowed corruption to creep in at every level of the institution. As a matter of fact, the top military chiefs were the ones to promote corruption among the rest of the military personnel to make them their acomplices in wrongdoings.

Every military chief who served as commander of the Armed Forces left the Army a very rich man. While they were amassing fortunes the Honduran Army was poorly equipped, a situation that came to the public's attention when the nation was in serious trouble.

However, not all the Army chiefs approved of the pillaging of the Armed Forces' funds. There were some patriotic military chiefs who did not approve of these actions which seriously hurt the Honduran Army's prestige. The situation for the Honduran Army worsened when the military chiefs entered politics, which is prohibited by our Constitution.

However, not all is lost. After listening to the new military chiefs, especially Armed Forces Commander General Walter Lopez Reyes, asking military personnel to observe good conduct, be honest, and honor the military institution, we hope that the new leaders will make the much-needed changes in the Armed Forces.

The prudent way in which the Armed Forces are handling matters related to national security and the attitude of the new military chiefs regarding our sovereignty are contributing to improving public opinion regarding the Armed Forces. The fact that Gen Lopez Reyes and his closest assistants have asked the United States for a revision of the military agreements is a good sign, and perhaps after all, they are different from the former military chiefs.

BRIEFS

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH FRG -- Honduras and the FRG have signed a technical and financial cooperation agreement in which Honduran resources will be improved through a number of programs of collective benefit. The FRG Government has previously carried out a number of programs to improve agriculture, housing, rural energy supply, roads, and professional training in Honduras. [Summary] [Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 3 Dec 84 p 6 PA]

NICARAGUA

CARDENAL VIEWS EXPULSION FROM JESUIT ORDER

PA121638 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] Actually, my expulsion from the Jesuit order is a pretext to obstruct a Christian movement that advocates peoples' liberation and progress, Nicaraguan Education Minister Father Fernando Cardenal told a large group of foreign journalists today. We are a new people creating new things and we must be respected, the priest said. At the same time he attributed his expulsion to an agreement between the Vatican's policy and the Reagan administration's warmongering policy. He stated:

[Begin Cardenal recording] At the same time that we defend ourselves from aggression we attempt, through diplomatic actions, to avert direct U.S. intervention, and to establish the bases for Nicaragua's development. With only $400 million in production, $200 million of which must go to pay our foreign debt -- no, excuse me, to pay the interest on our foreign debt -- we must invest in our country's future.

This is the dramatic situation that Nicaragua is experiencing. This is a small and impoverished nation. However, in Europe attempts are being made to create problems that do not exist in Nicaragua. They should believe in and respect our country even if it is small. We have 3 million people in our country; so few that we would all fit in a New York borough and have space left over. However, we are not 3 million individuals but a people who learned from Sandino and Carlos Fonseca what dignity means and what a country's honor signifies. Even though we are small we dare tell the world's most powerful nation, with all its atomic weapons: In Nicaragua we are our own bosses.

Since 19 July, thanks to the 50,000 people who sacrificed their lives for us, the U.S. Government does not give orders in Nicaragua; the Nicaraguan people do. This is the underlying reason why, and he will never admit it, Reagan needs to destroy this revolution. He will adduce that it is because we supply arms to El Salvador, which he has never been able to prove. He used to claim that it was because we did not have elections; well, now we have had them. He used to claim that we did not understand the Miskitos; well, we are understanding them better every day. Those are all pretexts.

In Guatemala the government does not only not understand the Indians but it murders them en masse. Also, one must only look at the coups d'etat that take place in one Latin American country after the other; but the fact that there are no elections in those countries does not constitute a problem, does it?

No priest has been murdered in Nicaragua. In El Salvador more than a dozen, including a bishop, have been murdered. But that is no problem, is it? The problem is not President Reagan's excuses regarding Nicaragua. The problem is that this little country has dared to be independent. [end recording]

Religious Leader 'Shocked'

PA122325 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Text] The expulsion of Father Fernando Cardenal from the Jesuit order has shocked me, the Reverend Jose Miguel Torres, president of the Nicaraguan Evangelical Ecumenical Alliance said yesterday. The expulsion shows that the political and religious leadership at the Vatican took a geopolitical stance and pressured the Jesuits to oust him, Rev Torres said.

[Begin recording] I am both surprised and shocked. I have known Father Cardenal for almost 15 years, since the time when, as committed Christians, we formed an ecumenical community parallel to our people's struggle. I can attest to his example and life as a priest that was loyal to his order, the Society of Jesus, and to the Catholic Church. I always believed that Jesuits, as part of their world work strategy, were allowed to assume other positions in the lay community in addition to their ministry, such as professors and the like. I believe that the position of education minister is similar to being a professor, serving society as an economist or other profession. I believe that the expulsion shows that the Vatican's religious leadership and policy have taken a geopolitical stance and have pressured the Jesuit order to oust him. I believe this is a sad and shameful action that the church will lament in the future. [end recording]

CARRION RETURNS, REPORTS ON TALKS WITH MISURASATA

PA122305 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 11 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] Although Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Sandinist Unity [Misurasata] maintained an inflexible position against jointly agreeing with the Sandinist People's Army to cease hostilities as the first step in the reunification and repatriation of the Miskitos, this first meeting held in Colombia "enabled us to better understand each other's positions and establish points of agreement to achieve substantial advances," Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrion, a member of the FSLN National Directorate, said last night on his return to Nicaragua.

After being welcomed at the Sandino Airport by Commanders of the Revolution Tomas Borge and Daniel Ortega, the Sandinist leader explained that on 19 and 20 December there will be a second round of talks in Bogota. He added that the group led by Brooklyn Rivera "placed as a condition for ceasing hostilities the granting of a specific concept of autonomy."

However, the revolutionary government believes that a cease-fire is essential so that Misurasata can proceed to discuss the terms of the autonomy statute for the Atlantic coast with the national commission created for this purpose. Nevertheless, the Misurasata delegates also stated that they do not want to indefinitely maintain a situation of war and they denied that they were counterrevolutionaries since "they know that if the counterrevolution wins in Nicaragua, their demands would not have any possibility of being accepted."

"These possible agreements make us think that with greater effort, flexibility, and understanding, it will be possible to take serious steps toward peace," Commander Carrion added.

IACCP REQUEST FOR OAS INTERVENTION CRITICIZED

PA130408 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] From Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, the Inter-American Council of Commerce and Production, IACCP, an organization that could be described as the grand (Coseco) of Latin America has requested intervention in Nicaragua where according to this business organization there is grave repression of different social sectors. The lap dogs of the Yankee transnationals, wielding another of the main points of global aggression against the Sandinist people's revolution, are telling the OAS and the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group that their intervention in our country is urgently needed to stop the wave of repression that affects persons such as Enrique Bolanos Geyer, Churruco, who, according to reports from Washington, is the CIA link to sabotage the electoral process in Nicaragua.

According to the so-called IACCP, it has already addressed the coordinator of the government junta, requesting that the government stop repressing the leaders of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, union leaders, and the clergy, but has not received any response, although these persons are not allowed to leave the country. Organizations such as this IACCP wave the flag of anticommunism in their political actions, so it is not difficult for the Nicaraguans to understand where their accustations against the revolutionary government are coming from.

SOCIAL SECURITY MINISTER CRITICIZES PAZ BARNICA

PA122248 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 11 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] Yesterday in an interview granted to EL NUEVO DIARIO, Reynaldo Antonio Tefel, [Nicaraguan Social Security and Welfare Institute minister], who has a BA in political science criticized the remarks on "peace" that Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica is making in Europe on behalf of his government while actions show just the opposite.

Unfortunately, Honduras is a country that is militarily occupied by U.S. troops with the approval of the Roberto Suazo Cordova government. This is rejected by the Honduran people, Tefel said. According to Tefel, Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica is one of those responsible for the occupation of his country from where Honduran and U.S. soldiers and Somozist counterrevolutionaries directed by the CIA carry out the policy of state terrorism against the Nicaraguan people.

Tefel noted that the CIA-directed mercenaries have destroyed rural child care centers and health centers and have killed more than 100 children in attacks emanating from Honduras. Therefore, he said, "Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica's remarks contradict his government's warmongering actions not only against Nicaragua but also against the Salvadoran and Honduran people since repression has increased with the arms buildup."

Commenting on the policy of terrorism carried out by the U.S. Government in Central America and other regions of the world, Telef said: "The Nicaraguan people and their children are suffering every day and in all forms by that policy promoted by the Reagan administration."

He added that this is the "worst kind of terrorism" because one expects a government to respect international legal principles in its foreign relations and "Washington does just the opposite."

Nevertheless he said that the Nicaraguan people have been able to see through the groups of U.S. citizens from different states and social sectors, "that a good part of the U.S. people disagree with that unjust and criminal policy." "We hope that those sectors will begin an active campaign so that their government will change its policy of illegal activity against the peace of our peoples," Tefel said.

He noted that prominent Dominican politician Enrique Pena Gomez, president of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, vice president of the Socialist International, and mayor of Santo Domingo, said during a recent visit to Nicaragua: "Nicaragua is the safest country in Latin America because neither the Nicaraguan Government nor the people carry out any kind of terrorism." Tefel said: "Wherever the CIA-directed Somozist mercenaries are not found there is absolute security for the Nicaraguan people and the foreign friends who visit us."

CDN'S CRUZ VIEWS TALKS WITH SPAIN'S GONZALEZ

PA130306 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] Arturo Cruz, leader of the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board, CDN met with Felipe Gonzalez. Cruz has described as very fruitful his recent meeting with Felipe Gonzalez, prime minister of the Spanish government. Cruz told journalists that Gonzalez had expressed his hopes that the Nicaraguan revolution will follow the original plan based on three premises: nonalignment, mixed economy, and political pluralism.

PASTORA RETURNS FROM U.S., GOES TO SOUTHERN FRONT

PA130104 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0024 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] San Jose, 11 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- According to spokesmen in this capital, anti-Sandinist leader Eden Pastora has rejoined the guerrillas in the southern part of Nicaragua after nearly 2 weeks of absence during which he made a political tour of the United States. "Commander Cero" traveled to Miami, invited by Nicaraguan and Cuban exile groups, according to the same sources.

The invitation "responds solidarily" to the call for help made several weeks ago by combatants in the southern part of Nicaragua to democratic nations and organizations.

The community of Nicaraguan exiles in Miami delivered "tons of clothing, food, and medicines" to Pastora, according to the information. Spokesmen of the "Sandino Revolutionary Front" (FRS), founded by Pastora, today said in this capital that "everything Commander Cero received in North America will be sent to those in the combat areas."

The medicines, food, and clothing donated to the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) will help "the thousands of Nicaraguan civilians, children, elders, and women living in misery on the Nicaraguan side bordering Rio San Juan," the guerrillas added. According to the sources, Eden Pastora returned to the combat sector "in Nicaraguan territory liberated" by ARDE armed forces.

SOVIET MARSHAL, WAR VETERANS ARRIVE ON VISIT

FL121348 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] A delegation of Soviet heroes, members of the Committee of War Veterans, arrived in Cuba yesterday at the invitation of the PCC Central Committee. The delegation is headed by marshal of aviation and twice Hero of the Soviet Union, Yevgeniy Savitskiy. The visitors were met at the airport by Antonio Perez Herrero, alternate member of the Politburo and member of the Secretariat, as well as FAR generals and chiefs.

During the delegation's stay in Cuba, its members will meet with workers and students from several provinces and will visit places of interest.

GDR DEPUTY MINISTER VISITS ISLE OF YOUTH

FL120228 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] The GDR's deputy minister of the Glass and Ceramics Industry Juergen Marowsky today visited ceramic factories and the experimental center of applied arts on the Isle of Youth.

GDR AMBASSADOR VISITS BREWERY IN CAMAGUEY

FL121632 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] GDR Ambassador to Cuba Heinz Langer visited a brewery under construction in Camaguey's capital in accordance with agreements signed by Cuba and the GDR.

CEMA METAL MEETING DELEGATES VISIT NICKEL PLANTS

FL121638 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] Presidents of delegations attending the 61st meeting of the CEMA's Nonferrous Metals Standing Commission today will visit Moa Municipality. The visitors will be able to appreciate in the land of nickel an example of the possibilities which can be achieved through exchange. The chiefs of delegations of the permanent commission meeting at the Palace of Conventions will observe the Punta Gorda plant in its initial production phase and the Camarioca plant in its first construction phase. These nickel plants are a result of bilateral and multilateral agreements, respectively. The progress made by such important economic objectives, which are considered to be extraordinary efforts of all our people, will be appreciated.

HUMBERTO FERNANDEZ MEETS BULGARIAN OFFICIALS

FL122054 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1917 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] Humberto Miguel Fernandez, Central Committee member and first party secretary of Cienfuegos Province, met today in Sofia with Bulgarian officials. Fernandez, who is visiting Sofia, met with Politburo member of the Bulgarian Communist Party and Minister of Machine Building Ognyan Doynov and with candidate Politburo member and eputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers Andrey Lukanov. At the meetings, experiences were exchanged on the socio-economic development of the two countries, among other matters. Fernandez will also be visiting the Cuban-Bulgarian friendship brigade, which is helping with the construction of the fifth electric atomic reactor in Kozloduy. This Cuban brigade will then apply their training in building the Cienfuegos nuclear power complex.

'OUR AMERICA' COMMENTS ON NICARAGUAN INDIAN ISSUE

PA130018 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 11 Dec 84

["Our America commentary]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government and the Indian organization Miskito, Sumu, Rama Sandinist Unity [Misurasata] approved a joint document after holding talks for 2 days in Bogota, capital of Colombia, supported by the Governments of Canada, France, the Netherlands, Mexico, Sweden, and the host country, as well as by the World Council of Indigenous Peoples.

The joint communique issued by the delegation of the Nicaraguan Government and the Indian organization Misurasata stresses the respect with which both sides discussed the elements that could serve as bases for the establishment of agreements that would allow the promotion of peace in Nicaragua, particularly on the country's Atlantic Coast.

The document states that certain points of agreement were established as the bases of the future talks programmed for January. One of the Nicaraguan leaders most knowledgeable about the demands and problems ofthe forgotten Nicaraguan Atlantic coast is Sergio Ramirez, political secretary of the FSLN, and of its regional committee in northern Zelaya. Af few days ago, Sergio Ramirez made statements for the newspaper BARRICADA edited in Managua, in which he made a deep analysis of the Nicaraguan revolutionaries' vision ofthe Atlantic problem, and the evolution of knowledge of that sector of the country's problems.

Sergio Ramirez said that there is no reason to fear the word 'autonomy' in this regard, because in Nicaragua's case it should contribute to strengthen national unity, and added that the Nicaraguan nationality will be the common denominator of the national minorities' autonomy. He said that what will take place will be the beginning of the legalization and institutionalization of a situation that actually exists, because we must not forget that the greater part of the state apparatus in the Atlantic region is formed by natives. Many years of hands-on experience, the political maturation of the people, and reflection on the reason for the Indian struggle, he added, allowed the Sandinist revolutionary leaders to face the taboo that existed regarding the autonomy of the Indian minorities on the Atlantic coast.

Ramirez stressed the importance of this new step that will establish the sector's autonomy, and trust that this challenge will be solved positively for the well-being of all Nicaraguans. He admitted that errors had been made, many because of a lack of knowledge of the Atlantic reality, but said that the balance favors success. One important error, he said, was not having discussed earlier with the Miskito leaders the problems of the local population, and another was the belief that the revolution could solve all problems at the same time.

In the first part of the talks, participants were Deputy Interior Minister Commander Luis Carrion, and Commanders William Ramirez, Lumberto Campbell, and (Antenor Rosales). The Miskito delegation was led by the chief of Misurasata, Brooklyn Rivera. Carrion said that Rivera is not pursuing the destruction of the Sandinist revolution and that his flag is that of the recovery of the rights of the ethnic groups on the Atlantic coast. With the initiation of these talks, a promising perspective has opened to the solution of a conflict more artificial than real in character, in which only the counterrevolutionaries and the imperialists were interested.

PRELA COMMENTS ON U.S.-NICARAGUAN TALKS

FL130204 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Commentary by Juan Roberto Loporte, PRELA correspondent in Mexico]

[Text] Nine rounds of completely private talks between Nicaragua's Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco and U.S. special ambassador to Central America Harry Shlaudeman have not up to now succeeded in answering Washington's and Managua's prayers.

The ninth meeting between representatives from the two countries ended in Manzanillo, on the Pacific coast of Mexico, and nothing indicates that dialogue will turn into negotiations on the many areas of friction which surround U.S. and Nicaraguan relations.

The Reagan administration's announcement on legalizing U.S. private aid to Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary forces, at the precise moment when Shlaudeman and Tinoco were holding conversations in Mexico, indicates to many analysts that the United States takes very lightly the conversations with the Sandinist Armed Forces.

The Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR stated that the Nicaraguan delegation had insisted to Shlaudeman on the absolute necessity of turning from the dialogue phase to concrete negotiations, leaving behind the stage of exchanging opinions and expounding viewpoints.

The Manzanillo talks were held under strict security measures, to stop information on topics discussed inside the Santiago Club from leaking.

In contrast to prior meetings, Mexico's Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda, who inaugurated the talks, stayed in Manzanillo until the end of the ninth Tinoco-Shlaudeman talks.

The Foreign Secretariat only issued a short communique, in which it reported Sepulveda inaugurating the meeting, and reported that the talks between Managua and Washington had been under the auspices of Mexico in the search for understanding and a peaceful solution, and the establishing of an atmosphere of cooperation in the region.

GRANMA CITES SAO TOME-PRINCIPE OFFICIAL ON AID

PA130157 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Dec 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Cuba is providing internationalist aid to dozens of underdeveloped countries. The Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe is one of those countries. It is a small nation, made up of two islands bearing precisely those names. The islands are located 82 miles from each other. This country is located very near the Equator. Some 100,000 people live in an area of 971 sq km [as heard]. This area is three times larger than the now-suffering island of Grenada, or two times smaller than the Cuban Isle of Youth.

The Sao Tome economy is based on agricultural products such as cacao, bananas, and malanga. Cuban advisers have gone to Sao Tome and Principe to provide assistance in the fields of medicine, education, sports, agriculture, and fishing as well as to give advice on matters such as planning and economics.

Currently, in the former Portuguese colony one out of every three doctors is Cuban. Referring to the Cuban medical personnel, Sao Tome Cooperation Minister Carlos Alberto Pires Tiny told GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW that they are now receiving medical personnel who are young but experienced.

The Sao Tome minister said that the fact is that in his country a Cuban surgeon has no one to turn to for consultation. For that reason the surgeons must be highly qualified. Truthfully, he added, they are efficient professionals.

The Sao Tome and Principe officials feel that the Cuban cooperation has a special place among all received aid, since it began shortly after their independence as a concrete way to meet the needs of that African nation which became free from Portuguese colonialism in 1975.

During the interview with the GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW, Cooperation Minister Pires Tiny said that the most important aspect of the Cuban cooperation is the help his country is receiving in the training of medical and technical personnel. In that respect, the minister quoted an old proverb that says: If you are hungry I can give you a fish, but it is better to teach you how to fish. The latter is much better, Pires Tiny said. He then added: The training of our personnel there in Cuba is the most important element of the aid that the Cubans are giving us.

Currently, some 300 Sao Tome students are in Cuba studying different fields and specialties, basically public health, fishing, education, agriculture, livestock, construction, economics, law and journalism.

Speaking about health again, Minister Pires Tiny said that in recent years an assistance program had been implemented to organize and improve public health based on modern and practical principles. So far, we have obtained considerable improvements in health care for Sao Tome citizens, Pires Tiny said.

Regarding the extent of the aid, Cuban aid to Sao Tome and Principe has become the most important assistance that that African nation receives. The aid involves not only diverse economic fields such as agriculture, livestock development, fisheries and construction, but also journalism, broadcasting, television, planning and trade. Thus, Cuba is fulfilling, as it does in other dozens of countries, its inescapable internationalist duty based on humane, solidaristic and disinterested cooperation.

INCREASED CONSUMPTION OF HARD LIQUOR REPORTED

FL120340 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Excerpt] A decrease in the availability of rum has been observed over the last 3 months in spite of overfulfillment of the annual plan set this year by the Ministry of Food Industry.

Arnel Duque, director of the beverages and liquor branch, will speak to us on this matter.

[Duque] More than 96,000 cases of hard liquor will be on the market in December and there will also be some production of wines and liquers for Havana.

[Reporter] For example, could we say that there was an explosion in consumption compared with past years?

[Duque] Yes, that is right. If we compare this year's plan with last year's we can see that there was a nationwide increase of some 4 million liters, and what is significant is that in spite of this production increase, there is a short supply in the [word indistinct]. Without a doubt there was an explosion in hard liquor consumption this year.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

NIGERIAN CRUDE OIL IMPORT SHIPMENTS BEGIN

FL120310 Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] Earlier this year Antigua and Barbuda signed an agreement with Nigeria to import oil. The oil shipments have now begun. According to a statement issued by the government in St John today, this is the result of conclusion of a contract between the West Indies Oil Company and the Nigerian National Petroleum Company for the supply of crude oil. According to the statement, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda has earned $621,000 from the sales of oil received from the Federal Republic of Nigeria over the last few months.

ST CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

SIMMONDS PRESENTS BUDGET TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FL130222 Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] The Government of St Kitts-Nevis has presented a budget of $114 million [EC]. Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds today presented the spending plan before the country's National Assembly. In presenting the budget, the prime minister said the worldwide economic problem has continued over the years to make it more and more difficult to maintain public (?programs) at a desired level. [passage indistinct]

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

INFORMER'S ARMS CACHE CLAIM TO BE INVESTIGATED

FL122342 Bridgetown CANA in English 2320 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Dec 12, CANA -- Trinidad and Tobago's Director of Public Prosecutions [DPP] Clebert Brooks is to investigate a Tobago fortnightly newspaper's claim that an arms cache was discovered on the small Holiday Island during the recent House of Assembly elections, according to press reports here. The TOBAGO INFORMER's story became a high-point in the bitterly contested elections. The paper said the arms had been unloaded at King's Bay in Tobago by a Cuban ship.

Brooks' decision was reported by both dailies -- The TRINIDAD EXPRESS and the TRINIDAD GUARDIAN -- today. The DPP's move follows complaints by chairman of the assembly, A N.R. Robinson, earlier this week that no official action had been taken on the report. Robinson wrote to the DPP, the president of the twin-island Republic, and the acting commissioner of police about the matter, and he requested that the photograph which accompanied the article be submitted as evidence. After all, he said, the authors of the report claimed to possess evidence of a gross violation of international law as well as a serious crime against the population of Trinidad and Tobago. The report, Robinson said in his letter to the president, "if based on fact, would of course indicate a gross violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country, and a continuing threat to the safety, peace, and security of citizens.

DIFFERENCES ON ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATION PERSIST

PM121455 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 6 Dec 84 pp 1, 6

[Han Hansen report: "Suriname's Employers Oppose Plan"]

[Excerpt] The Surinamese Government's think tank that has been working on the problem of democratization yesterday handed over to Prime Minister Udenhout a controversial blueprint in which no elections are envisaged at present. Surinamese industry and commerce, one of the three groups in the intended assembly, disagrees totally with the allocation of seats envisaged by the advisory body under the leadership of Deputy Prime Minister Leeflang.

The Udenhout government must now, under the supervision of the military authorities, hold further negotiations with the employers and the trade unions in an attempt to reach an acceptable compromise on the distribution of seats in an assembly. In Paramaribo the possibility has not been ruled out that the organization of industry and commerce will forego representation in the event of continuing disagreement over its share of seats in the assembly.

On Tuesday [4 December] Suriname's ambassador to The Hague, Henk Heidweiler, said that the expected presentation yesterday of the Udenhout report, so crucial to the question of the resumption of Netherlands development aid, would be delayed. The report that has now been presented is in fact the Leeflang report. Although Prime Minister Udenhout has officially received this from the think tank, he is unable to submit it to the Surinamese people as a final version because of the lack of agreement among his advisers.

The report speaks of an assembly consisting of 31 seats, 14 of which are for military representatives, 11 for trade unions and 6 for employers. The Surinamese Employers' Confederation is represented in the think tank for the preparation of the Udenhout report by Pertab Radakishun. In response to questions, he was unwilling for "psychological reasons" to mention any concrete figures in connection with the assembly that is yet to be formed, because "the matter would be made more difficult than it already is."

Over the telephone Radakishun said: "A balance must be reached in the composition of the representative body in the intended transitional phase lasting a maximum of 3 years. We have great difficulty in accepting the share allocated to industry and commerce. The trade union movement is fairly satisfied. But before 31 December agreement must be reached on a reassessment of the number of seats for industry and commerce in the plans. On 31 December the Udenhout cabinet's mandate expires. Along with the assembly there must be a new government 1 January. Otherwise the military authorities will automatically take over government responsibility," Radakishun said.

The employers' representative confirmed that elections will only be held after the transitional phase of 3 years. "Elections at the present time have no point, because it is not clear what structure the assembly will finally be given. One of this body's tasks is the drafting of a new constitution. I hope that there will be a national base in support of the Udenhout report.

"The parties involved in the think tank have kept in constant touch with their rank and file about the proposals made, but it is indeed a shortcoming that the time was too short to organize a broad test for the plan among the population," Radakishun said. Asked why the Udenhout interim government could not stay on for a couple of months in order to test the plan among the population, the Surinamese employers' representative said: "The Udenhout mandate runs out 31 December. No, there is nothing that can change that."

In the Netherlands Second Chamber it was said this week that one of the conditions for the resumption of Netherlands development aid is that the Surinamese people be given an opportunity to voice their opinion on the plans contained in the Udenhout report. The Surinamese employers' representative confirmed that during the 3-year transitional phase actual government power in Suriname would be reserved for the military authorities.

MINUTES OF 1983 CONFERENCE REVEAL LEADERS' DISPUTES

PM120937 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 24 Nov 84 pp 1, 5

[Frans van Klaveren report: "Bouterse: Soviet Union Appeased Netherlands ver Missiles"]

[Text] Rotterdam, 24 Nov -- According to Surinamese Army leader Bouterse, the Soviet Union withheld support for his regime in the period around the so-called December murders in 1982 because the Russians did not want to annoy the Netherlands in connection with the possible deployment of cruise missiles. The Soviet Union is supposed to have told Bouterse that "the opposition in the Netherlands must give its support to Soviet policy."

This is clear from the secret minutes of the high-level meeting held in the conference hall of the Memre Boekoe barracks in Paramaribo 15 September 1983, when the Army leadership; representatives of the National Army; members of the Progressive Workers and Farmers [PALU] Party and the Revolutionary People's Party; members of the People's Mobilization Movement; and "supporters of the revolution" met to discuss the topic, "our foreign policy." Prime Minister Wim Udenhout was secretary that evening.

In a statement on the withholding of Russian support for the regime in Suriname, Bouterse also said: "The question of the Russian pipeline also had a role to play. Economic interests were thus involved. The Russians could not sell their own people the idea that Suriname, with its higher standard of living, should be helped at the expense of their own farmers."

The evening meeting in the Memre Boekoe barracks was intended, as is clear from the minutes taken by Prime Minister Udenhout, to put an end to internal disagreements within the revolutionary struggle and to stake out a joint course with regard to foreign policy. In particular, Suriname's attitudes to Brazil, the United States, and the Netherlands were the subject of discussion.

Bouterse, who chaired the meeting, said in his introductory remarks: "In recent months we have passed through the eye of the needle. We will not always be so lucky; we will not always be able to frighten the people again with events like those of 8 and 9 December (when fifteen critics of the government were killed -- Frans van Klaveren). If this proves necessary we will not shy away from it, but it must be avoided. We must introduce calm in order to be able to carry out the policies we have drawn up. If our adversaries cause another 8 and 9 December, that will not be a problem for us, but we must not create the conditions for such a situation, because then people would indeed be right in calling us murderers and barbarians."

Engineer I. Krolis (PALU), who "had the honor of accompanying the commander to the conference of nonaligned nations," said during the discussion: "In this region we have had two good friends (from the context these seem to be Bishop's Grenada and Cuba -- Frans van Klaveren), but what they were able to do was not enough to be of any real help to us." Therefore, "no foreign ties other than those with Brazil can at this mement give us the backing we need. In our difficult periods we have considered obtaining arms from Libya.

Under the leadership of the Army leader we then asked ourselves how many weapons we would need to be able to effectively combat the enemy. The conclusion reached was that the weapons from Libya would not be sufficient. Thus relations with Brazil must be seen as a tactical step for the consolidation of the revolution."

Minister I. Fong Poen added: "Although Brazil says that it does not want to interfere in our foreign affairs, it has stated that it will intervene if ever it becomes clear that we are receiving arms from Libya and Cuba; this is clearly inspired by the United States."

Bouterse summarized the discussion as follows: "Now you know why we entered into the relationship with Brazil; it is a tactical step; the revolution has not been sold. But you must remember that the same Brazil that now wants to help us was ready to invade."

At one point, according to the minutes, the revolutionary gathering began to discuss the question of which country is the "major enemy" of Suriname. There was disagreement over whether it was the Netherlands or the United States. The United States was, in the general opinion, the leader of imperialism and therefore the greatest enemy.

The participants also asked: "Which country is at the present moment in a position to eliminate the leadership of this country?" Former Foreign Minister Harvey Naarendorp, one of Bouterse's top advisers, remarked in this connection: "The Netherlands is the main instrument of neocolonialism. We must therefore work out how the Netherlands can be combated."

The minutes are dated 18 September 1983 and signed "W. Udenhout, member of the advisory group."

COLOMBIA

TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKERS SUSPEND STRIKES

PA122241 Bogota Emisora CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] Bogota -- Telecom [National Enterprise for Telecommunications] workers have decided to suspend the progressive strikes they had been staging to put pressure on the negotiation of the points included in the list of demands now under discussion.

The workers' union made the decision following a meeting with Telecom President German Gonzalez Sorzano. At this meeting, it was also agreed to continue discussing the demands which had been suspended.

MEXICO

OIL PRODUCTION INCREASES 1.3 PERCENT IN 1984

FL121939 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1554 GMT 12 Dec 84

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- The Secretariat of Energy, Mines, and Parastatal Industry (SEMIP) reported today that oil production increased by 1.3 percent in 1984 over last year.

During 1983, oil production amounted to 2.6655 million barrels per day and the estimated daily average for this year is 2.7 million barrels, that is, 34,500 more barrels per day. However, natural gas production declined by 3.8 percent, dropping from 4.053600 million cubic feet daily in 1983 to 3.9 million cubic feet daily this year. Liquid gas production increased by 9.7 percent when it went from 154,900 barrels per day in 1983 to 170,000 barrels per day in 1984.

Regarding oil by-products, production went from 1.2484 million barrels per day in 1983 to 1.26 million barrels per day in 1984. Growth amounts to .9 percent. Official reports indicate that production of oil by-products such as gasoline, diesel, fuel oil, and liquid gas increased by 4.2 percent, 7.2 percent, 8.5 percent, and 10.1 percent, respectively.

POLICE ARREST MAN FOR PLOT AGAINST POPE

PA130445 Paris AFP in English 0418 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Caracas, Dec 13 (AFP) -- Police arrested a man here Wednesday who was allegedly planning to assassinate Pope John Paul II during his stay in Venezuela January 26-29, Venezuelan television reported. The man, whom they did not identify, reportedly had a large amount of weapons and when arrested was carrying detailed maps of the places where the pope is to stop during his visit. He also had on him a membership card on the banned right-wing fundamentalist organization Tradition, Family and Property (TFP).

Members of TFP, which has branches in the United States and Western Europe, had used an effigy of the Pope for target practice, the television said. Venezuelan authorities banned TFP last month, saying the organization isolated its young members and brain-washed them, the television reported.